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THE INDEPENDENT

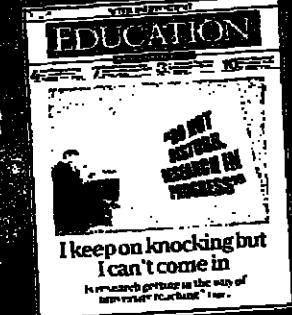
No 3,791

THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 1999

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Please sir,
I think I hate
you



IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW

Blair fights to salvage Ulster peace

SOME OF THE IRA's alleged top killers were named in the Commons yesterday as Tony Blair battled to stop the political consensus underpinning the Good Friday Agreement unravelling over the release of terrorist prisoners.

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent
AND DAVID MCKITTRICK

beatings" by gangs in loyalist and republican estates. The former minister Frank Field joined other Labour MPs in attacking the beatings, which, it was said, were being used to undermine the Royal Ulster Constabulary during the review of its role by Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong governor. The attack by the Tories, whose position is that they support the agreement in

principle but not as it is being managed, has stretched to the limit the bi-partisan approach on Northern Ireland.

The Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, tried to raise the temperature by naming an alleged Provisional IRA gang said to be responsible for murdering 10 Protestant workers. The Independent has declined to reproduce the names so as not to expose innocent people to the threat of attack.

Mr Paisley's use of Commons privilege to read out



Collins: Found battered

names from a police dossier on the Kingsmill massacre from the mid-1970s will do nothing to calm the atmosphere sur-

rounding the peace process. Last week the Conservative backbencher Andrew Hunter backed down from a threat to "name and shame" alleged republican bombers after being advised not to by the Government and the RUC Chief Constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan.

But the DUP leader's show of outrage underlined frustration at the failure to apprehend the terrorists responsible for the Omagh bombing.

member, Eamon Collins, who renounced violence and wrote about his deeds. His body was found on a remote roadside in Newry, Co Down, with severe head injuries.

In their most heated exchanges on the peace process, William Hague was accused by Mr Blair of being "dragged along by some who do not wish the Good Friday Agreement well - I do question the motives of some of them."

But the Prime Minister had to contradict the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam,

who earlier suggested that calling a halt to the release of prisoners may not be legal. Mr Blair told MPs he had the power to stop the release of the prisoners but made clear the Government had taken the decision not to do so, at this stage, because it judged that it would destroy the peace process. "We can stop them altogether... We should do so in circumstances where we then declare the ceasefire no longer exists. If that were to be the case the consequences would be immense for the whole of the

process in Northern Ireland. I'm not saying it would never be wrong to come to that judgement. I'm just saying I don't believe that is the right judgement now." Ministers are privately deeply concerned about the pressure they are facing from MPs and the families of the victims of the violence, but they are being advised by the security and intelligence services that the ceasefire is holding and that bombings, and terrorist attacks on civilian or military targets have been suspended.

Senators accept that Clinton must stay

THE IMPEACHMENT trial of President Bill Clinton will continue into next week at least, after the US Senate voted yesterday to pursue the charges and hear evidence from witnesses. But crucially the votes signalled that the President will not be forced from office.

The Democrats' vote held firm and that can block his conviction.

With tension in the chamber high and all present conscious that the trial was at a turning point, the senators were called to vote at the start of yesterday's session.

They voted by 56 to 44 first against a Democrat motion to dismiss the case against Mr Clinton, and then for a Republican motion on witnesses.

The vote, which went strictly along party-lines, spelt the end of the Senate's aspirations to preserve a cross-party consensus on the impeachment of the President.

There was only one defector, the maverick Democrat Russ Feingold, of Wisconsin, who voted with the Republicans - against dismissal and for witnesses.

Mr Feingold is one of the few senators not beholden to his party for funds, having retained his seat last November after setting unilateral limits on his campaign spending.

The Senate's decision to call witnesses infuriated the White House and disappointed De-

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

mocrats. Three of the key individuals in the Lewinsky scandal now face renewed questioning under oath: Monica Lewinsky herself, the President's millionaire friend, Vernon Jordan, and his special adviser, Sidney Blumenthal.

The Senate also wants further evidence from Mr Clinton, which he is expected to refuse. Republicans hoped the witnesses could be heard over the weekend and the trial concluded late next week.

Precise arrangements for hearing witnesses had yet to be worked out, but they are not thought likely to appear in the Senate chamber, at least initially. They are expected to be questioned by two senators on videotape, with transcripts provided to the Senate after the weekend.

The leader of the minority Senate Democrats, Tom Daschle, regretted the lack of agreement, saying that his party wanted "not to protect the President of the United States, but to protect the Constitution".

He insisted it had not been demonstrated that the charges against the President were impeachable, and he expressed the hope of a "procedural compromise" before today.

Reluctant witnesses, page 15

It could be you. Tibetan tribe hits jackpot with £100,000 lottery grant from Britain



Members of a remote Tibetan tribe win a lottery grant to improve their land and water supply Alan Clements

THE DALAI LAMA was mystified when he was told about Britain's National Lottery, but he understands it better now that a tribe of his most remote people have become unsuspecting winners. Two settlements of Tibetan refugees who have hardly ever seen a Western face have been awarded £102,000 by the National Lottery Charities Board.

The concept of a Saturday night live draw or a roll-over jackpot might be difficult to explain to these isolated communities. It is not just that they don't have television. They are so unfamiliar with the outside world that, when confronted by two British trustees from the Tibet Relief Fund, they asked: "Are you Chinese?"

As Liz Banks, one of the trustees, put it: "There is no Western influence, not much Indian influence, and obviously no Chinese influence."

What these refugees do know, however is that as of tomorrow, when the Lottery

By CLARE GARNER

money is formally released, they will be able to begin the process of installing pump systems for running water, importing tractors so they can farm the land, and establishing a TB and malaria laboratory.

The Tibetan refugee settlements of Miao and Tizu are small and remote, with populations of 2,000 and 1,680 respectively. Their physical isolation and politically sensitive proximity to the Burmese and Chinese Tibetan borders have meant that, until now, they have been neglected by aid agencies.

The advantage of such isolation is that Tibetan culture flourishes. "It was made clear to the Lottery Board that the whole point of having irrigation and agriculture here was to hold the settlements together, and enhance and maintain the Tibetan culture," said Mr Alan Clements of the Tibet Relief Fund.

Hard luck - Viagra can cause impotence



FOR THE normal, sexually active man, Viagra has a nasty potential side-effect: it can cause permanent impotence, according to one specialist.

The growing recreational use of the drug by young men should be discouraged because of the risk that it could cause priapism, a persistent and painful erection that does not subside, says Roger Kirby, consultant urologist at St George's

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

Hospital, London. Priapism, occasionally triggered by other impotence treatments such as injections, is a particular problem in West Indian men. In some cases, victims have suffered painful erections for several hours and needed hospital treatment. If an erection lasts longer than six hours, it can

restrict the blood supply to the intracavernosal smooth muscle in the penis, which facilitates the erection process, causing permanent damage.

Release, the drugs charity, said yesterday that Viagra was "flavour of the month" on the club circuit and was selling on the black market for £10 to £12 a pill. Anecdotal reports suggest that it is being offered in combination with Ecstasy as a "double hit" and sold as "Sextasy".

A spokesman for Release said: "It's definitely found its place on the fetish side of club culture." Mr Kirby, writing in *Student BMJ*, says: "There are no data to support the claim sildenafil (Viagra) really does improve the normal erection or alter orgasmic sensation. There have been reports of priapism developing in young men using it as a recreational substance."

Earlier this month a Lancashire-based travel insurer, Primary Direct, reported that 12 men had been flown home from holiday with "permanent" erections after buying Viagra in Amsterdam and Thailand. A spokesman for Pfizer, the manufacturer of Viagra, said there had been fewer than 20 reports of priapism linked with Viagra and there was no proof the drug caused the condition.

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THE WORLD EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key

Below 0°C
0-10°C
11-20°C
21-30°C
31-40°C

Low pressure
High pressure
Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

KEY

Low pressure
High pressure
Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

Low M will sink south-east. High M will move north-east, absorbing high N. Low N will move east.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Cloudy, drizzle. Low: 15 to 18 to 19 to 20 to 21 to 22 to 23 to 24 to 25 to 26 to 27 to 28 to 29 to 30 to 31 to 32 to 33 to 34 to 35 to 36 to 37 to 38 to 39 to 40 to 41 to 42 to 43 to 44 to 45 to 46 to 47 to 48 to 49 to 50 to 51 to 52 to 53 to 54 to 55 to 56 to 57 to 58 to 59 to 60 to 61 to 62 to 63 to 64 to 65 to 66 to 67 to 68 to 69 to 70 to 71 to 72 to 73 to 74 to 75 to 76 to 77 to 78 to 79 to 80 to 81 to 82 to 83 to 84 to 85 to 86 to 87 to 88 to 89 to 90 to 91 to 92 to 93 to 94 to 95 to 96 to 97 to 98 to 99 to 100 to 101 to 102 to 103 to 104 to 105 to 106 to 107 to 108 to 109 to 110 to 111 to 112 to 113 to 114 to 115 to 116 to 117 to 118 to 119 to 120 to 121 to 122 to 123 to 124 to 125 to 126 to 127 to 128 to 129 to 130 to 131 to 132 to 133 to 134 to 135 to 136 to 137 to 138 to 139 to 140 to 141 to 142 to 143 to 144 to 145 to 146 to 147 to 148 to 149 to 150 to 151 to 152 to 153 to 154 to 155 to 156 to 157 to 158 to 159 to 160 to 161 to 162 to 163 to 164 to 165 to 166 to 167 to 168 to 169 to 170 to 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Flynn fails property

Ex-IRA man who defied Provos in their own heartland left to die in a gutter

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

EAMON COLLINS, who met a violent death on a road at Newry, Co Down, in the early hours of yesterday, was a man who took the most reckless risks with his own life and those of others.

A former IRA volunteer, he turned against the IRA and other republicans in the most open and public of ways, developing his own brand of "naming and shaming" alleged activists and relentlessly criticising republicanism.

He was not unique in doing so, since recent years have produced up to half-a-dozen former IRA members who have now forsaken violence and who regularly criticise the IRA and Sinn Féin in the media and in books of memoirs.

But he was remarkable in that he returned to live openly in a hardline republican area in Newry, a town which holds hundreds of IRA members and supporters and thousands of Sinn Féin voters. Many former prisoners and activists live within a 10-mile radius of his home, and all of them detested him for his behaviour and regarded his presence as a standing affront.

Mr Collins, 44, was constantly intimidated and abused, suffering a number of attacks. With hindsight, perhaps the surprise lies not in his death but in the fact that he stayed alive for as long as he did.

His body was found at 6am yesterday on a country road a few hundred yards from the house where he lived for the past two years. He had suffered severe head injuries.

Although the IRA is assumed to be the prime suspect for his death, the Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, said yesterday afternoon that he had no reason to think foul play was involved. If there was foul play, he added, "then of course it's wrong".

The security forces and the Government will now be keenly searching for confirmation of mainstream IRA involvement, since there is already heated criticism of the organisation for its continuing use of violence in the form of "punishment" shootings and beatings.

If the IRA was responsible the timing of the killing is difficult to fathom, given this background and given the Commons debate on prison releases which took place yesterday.

Martin McGartland, a one-time informer who lives at a secret address in England, said: "There is no doubt that this has got something to do with the IRA or one of its so-called splinter groups."

"I thought the IRA were sincere about their ceasefire. This



An RUC officer standing guard after Mr Collins' death. AP

murder shows that the IRA will never forget anyone who has double-crossed them or gone against their organisation."

There are other possibilities. Last year, Mr Collins made a particular denunciation of the Real IRA, the breakaway group which carried out the Omagh bombing in August. In a lengthy newspaper article he all but named the Real IRA's alleged leader, claiming he had also been responsible for the killing of 18 soldiers at Warrenpoint in 1979.

There is also the possibility that the attack on Mr Collins was carried out by republicans on what might be called an unofficial or semi-official basis.

Last year, in an open letter to Mr Adams complaining of intimidation, Mr Collins wrote: "The people that are carrying this out are former Provisionals, former Sinn Féin people, and are now playing dual roles of being tied in with Sinn Féin, tied in with the republicans and tied in with the dissidents."

During his IRA career Mr Collins was clearly a valuable asset to the terrorist organisation, being involved in at least five murders and possibly 15. From the late 1970s until the mid-1980s he functioned as an intelligence officer, helping to gather information through his job as a Customs officer in the Newry area.

In 1985, he cracked under RUC interrogation and made confessions which led to him being charged with five murders. He also initially agreed to act as a "supergrass", promising to go into court to give evidence against alleged former associates.

But afterwards he refused to testify and disowned his own statements. He was acquitted by a judge who accepted his claims that the RUC had used unacceptable methods to extract his alleged "confessions".

At that point, Mr Collins disappeared from the scene for almost a decade before reappearing on a television pro-

gramme to speak about the killings. In doing so, he relied on the legal provision that, having been tried and acquitted, he could not be prosecuted for them again.

One of the deaths was that of an 11-year-old Protestant schoolboy who died when a bomb went off in the Co Down town of Banbridge. He said he had "scouted in" the bomb. Another was that of Ivan Toombs, a Customs service official who was also a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

In the 1997 book *Killing Rage*, Mr Collins described in detail how he carried out the surveillance and planning involved in the Toombs killing and other murders.

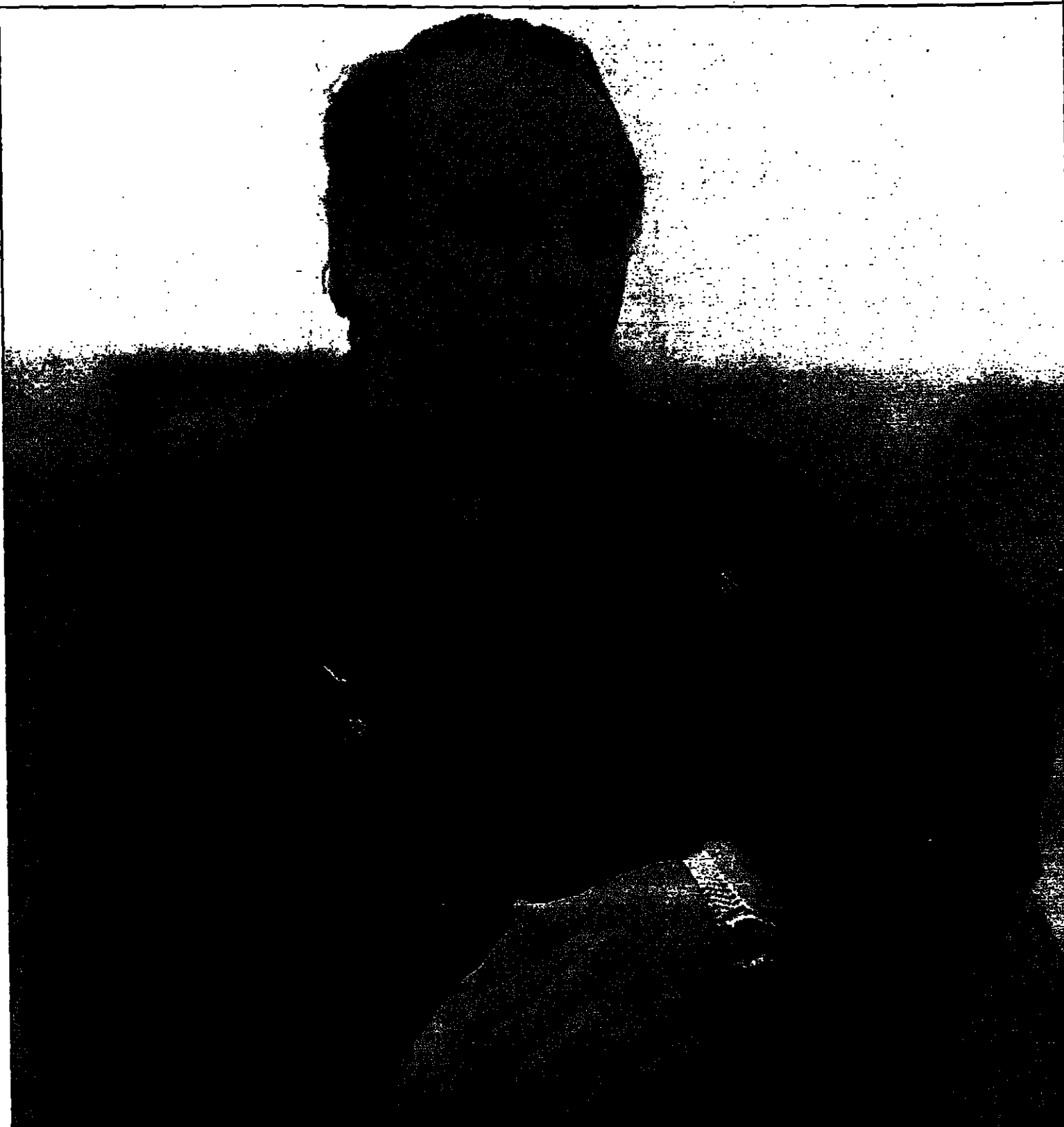
He wrote: "When I set out to kill Ivan Toombs I was setting out to kill a UDR uniform. What was brought home to me was that you can never kill a uniform, you can only kill a person ..."

"By exposing myself to the anger of my former comrades and the families of my victims, I wanted to show that I had thought long and hard about what had happened and that it is possible to become a different person - as we all have to become different people if we are to live together in Northern Ireland without political violence."

"I truly believe that only by confronting our past actions, by understanding the forces which drove us to carry them out, can we hope to create the possibility of a society in which these actions do not occur again."

His return to Newry appears to have been part of a personal odyssey undertaken to grapple with his conscience and come to terms with his past. This led him not to introspection but to broadcast his thoughts and contribute long articles to newspapers.

In 1998 he accepted payment from the *Sunday Times* for appearing as a witness in a libel case in Dublin. He told the court that the plaintiff was a senior member of the IRA. His high profile in the media con-



Eamon Collins: 'By exposing myself to the anger of my former comrades ... I wanted to show it is possible to become a different person' Alan Lewis

tinued despite intimidation which included being struck by a car in a hit-and-run incident and a serious fire at the family home he was renovating.

Last year, he said he was leaving Newry with his wife and children, but at another level it seems he wished to stay and continue his intense self-analysis. He asked at the time, with terrible prescience: "What's the next stage? Does my house get burnt? Do I get executed on the street?"

Flynn failed to explain property dealer's gift

EC COMMISSIONER Pádraig Flynn suffered a potentially fatal blow to his career last night when it was revealed he was asked three months ago by Pádraig Fail, the main Irish Government party, to explain a gift of IR£50,000 from a property developer, but failed to reply.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie

Ahern yesterday sought to distance himself from Mr Flynn, a former cabinet colleague and EC social affairs commissioner, as the row threatened to damage Ireland's coalition government.

Mr Ahern declared: "We have no desire to hide dark se-

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

crets from the past. Neither the government nor the Fianna Fáil party have any jurisdiction over the European Commissioner."

The cash gift was allegedly given to Mr Flynn when Sligo-born businessman Tom Gilmartin was promoting a major Dublin property development in 1989 when Mr Flynn was Irish environment minister and joint FF treasurer.

Mr Ahern revealed that in a letter to Mr Flynn dated October 6, Fianna Fáil's general sec-

retary Martin Macdon asked if he received the £50,000, if it was for the party, whether he had passed it to any party officer, and if so when and if any receipt was given.

Mr Ahern's inquiries had established separately that the cash never reached party headquarters, he told the Dail. Mr Flynn has so far not replied.

The revelation that the Commissioner, first appointed in January 1993, has not been able to clear up the matter with his own party sunk hopes he had of being reappointed when his term in Brussels ends in June, and will add pressure

on him to quit earlier. Mr Flynn, 59, has said he will make no further statement on the £50,000, but will co-operate with a Dublin judicial inquiry under Mr Justice Flood, currently investigating alleged planning corruption.

The Commissioner has only made only qualified denials about the affair, saying: "I never took money from anybody to do political favours in so far as planning is concerned."

In an Irish television interview a fortnight ago, Mr Flynn claimed Mr Gilmartin, 61, and his wife were sick. He withdrew the remarks later.

Top award for 'Independent' photographer

DAVID ROSE, a staff photographer at *The Independent*, has won a top award for a series of pictures he took during the stand-off last year between police and loyalists at Drumcree in Northern Ireland. Rose's collection won the The Fuji Portfolio (single story) Award in the 1998 Picture Editors Awards, judged by 40 picture editors from national and regional newspapers in the UK and Ireland. His eight images included a photograph (right) of a Catholic church firebombed by loyalists.



Father David Delargy surveying the charred remains of his church after an attack by loyalists

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British terror suspects seized in Yemen

YEMENI SECURITY forces arrested three more Britons yesterday, one of whom is the son of Abu Hamza al-Masri, the militant Islamic cleric from Finsbury Park. The Interior Ministry claimed that the three were linked to the five other Britons and one Algerian, whose trial on charges of planning a bombing campaign in the city opened yesterday.

The government said the three men were among six fugitives who had been hunted down and surrounded in the Shabwa mountains in eastern Yemen on Tuesday. They finally surrendered to security forces yesterday in a dramatic development that coincided almost precisely with the opening of the trial.

The government alleged that the new detainees belong to the same group as the five Britons and one Algerian in court. Of the other people detained yesterday, two were Algerian and one Yemeni. The two other Britons were named by Yemeni authorities as Shaz Nabi and Ayyad Hussein.

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Aden

The Yemeni government has been searching the country for Mohammed Mustapha Kamil, Mr Masri's 17-year-old son, ever since the British group was arrested in Aden last month. Yemen is demanding the extradition of Mr Masri from Britain on terrorism charges, seeing him as the mastermind behind a plot to bomb hotels, a church and the British consulate in Aden.

It also believes that Mr Masri was involved in the kidnapping of 16 foreign tourists in Yemen last month, which led to the killing of three Britons and an Australian. The trial opened with raucous courtroom scenes in which the accused shouted that they had been repeatedly tortured after their arrest in two downtown hotels in Aden on 24



Malik Nasser Harhara, aged 26, one of five Britons on trial in Yemen for alleged terrorism, being led into court in Aden yesterday

Paul Grover

December. "They have been treating us like animals," shouted Samad Ahmed, a 21-year-old student from Kingston University, rolling up the sleeves of his shirt to show dark bruises on both arms as he entered the dock. "Like animals," he repeated.

He and the other four Britons - Ghulam Hussein, 25, Mr Ghalain, a student living

in Shepherd's Bush, said: "For the first five days they wouldn't let us sleep. They battered us until we woke up." He said he was sexually abused. Mr Luovres, who sought political asylum from Algeria in France, said: "They made me sit on a bottle of Coca-Cola."

All the men looked apprehensive, but contemptuous of the proceedings as the prosecutor read out the charges in Arabic, which were haltingly rendered into English by an elderly translator. Of the

Britons, only Mr Harhara, a student at London University, said he spoke some Arabic, but not very well. When the other defendants looked perplexed as the translator stumbled over a word, Mr Harhara grimaced and told them: "They just said we could be executed."

Before the trial was adjourned for three days so that the defence could consider the detailed charges, the prosecution said its case rested on the confessions of the accused, explosives found in their pos-

session and three Yemeni witnesses. The accused all pleaded not guilty and said that their confessions had been extracted under torture.

Before the beginning of the trial an official entered the court carrying four holdalls. From these he took five large, brown-coloured Russian-made plastic anti-tank mines, slabs of TNT with fuses, as well as computers and mobile phones which he placed neatly on a table in front of the judge.

The prosecution case is that Mr Harhara, who is of Yemeni origin, first entered Yemen last July to arrange for the others to follow him in December. They did so on 19 December and checked into the al-Wafa Hotel, in Aden before moving to a villa. They then travelled to Shabwa province east of Aden for military training. Later Mr Ghalain and Mr Harhara met Abu Hassan, the leader of the group which later kidnapped the tourists, and were given military equipment by him.

The prosecution also

charged the men with belonging to Mr Masri's group, the Supporters of the Sharia, "which exports terrorism to other countries". The defence lawyer Badr Basunaid immediately protested, saying: "Abu Hamza is not on trial. He is nothing to do with this case."

After the charges were read all the defendants stood up to deny them. As the men were led out of the dock down a narrow stairs they shouted "bogus charges" and "kangaroo court". The judge said they should be examined by a doctor, moved to another prison and could see their families.

The Yemeni government is suspicious of the fact that one of the defendants, Mohsin Ghalain, is Mr Masri's stepson, and a second defendant, Mr Luovres is engaged to Mr Masri's sister-in-law Suzanne.

Together with Mr Masri's son who was arrested yesterday, three of the eight British prisoners now being held in Yemen have a family link to the controversial cleric.

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Ex-SAS man hired to burn football stadium

THE MAIN shareholder of a football club was convicted yesterday of hiring an ex-SAS soldier to set fire to its stadium.

Ken Richardson, 61, a key figure at Doncaster Rovers at the time of the 1995 arson attack, was described by the prosecution as a "devious man" who had joined the South Yorkshire club because there were profits to be made.

Roger Keen QC, for the prosecution, told Sheffield Crown Court that Richardson had offered a Newcastle private investigator, Alan Kristiansen, £10,000 to carry out the attack at the Belle Vue ground.

The former SAS man and his accomplices sprayed petrol under the main stand and set it alight. The fire caused £100,000

BY MARK WILKINSON

damage to the stand and almost put the club out of business.

The night after the fire, Kristiansen left a message on Richardson's telephone answering machine, saying: "The job's been done."

Richardson, from Douglas on the Isle of Man, denied any involvement but was convicted of conspiracy to commit criminal damage by fire after a two-week trial.

Judge Peter Baker QC warned Richardson, whose involvement with Doncaster Rovers ended last year when the club was relegated into the Football Conference that he could expect a custodial sentence. "This is a most serious

offence, albeit an unusual one. But there's no doubt what the sentence will be - it's just a question of its length," he said.

The sentencing was adjourned until a date to be arranged. Richardson was remanded in custody pending a bail application.

Kristiansen was arrested after police found his mobile phone which had been left at the scene of the fire.

The private investigator, who was the prosecution's main witness, has already pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentence.

Mr Keen claimed Richardson had plotted the fire for financial gain and described the evidence he gave in court as "the worst concoction of waffle, piffle and flannel" he had heard.

IN BRIEF

Witness fails to identify Sarwar

A PROSECUTION witness in the trial of the Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday drew back from a statement she gave police that he persuaded her to sign a falsified voter registration form. Shadia Hussain said she could not identify the man. Mr Sarwar denies the charges. The case continues.

Clothing gets boy, 10, arrested

A BRITISH boy, 10, was arrested by Barbados airport officials for wearing trendy camouflage clothing from Marks & Spencer. Ted Hills from Greater Manchester was held briefly because it is illegal for anyone to wear camouflage except the Barbados military. His mother Pat said: "Ted's soldier mad so I'm just glad he didn't have his toy gun."

Channel 5 reprimands watchdog

CHANNEL 5 has criticised the Broadcasting Standards Commission after being censured for showing late-night erotic films. The channel said the commission had created a new rule that sex should not be broadcast on free-to-air channels "for its own sake".

Roof collapses on dome building

THE NEW roof on the Montreal stadium built for the 1976 Olympic Games, and made in the same material as the Millennium Dome, collapsed in a snowstorm, injuring five people. Dome officials deny that it could happen here as Greenwich does not get as much snow as Montreal.

Microwave crisps get fan arrested

A FOOTBALL fan was arrested after filling a motorway service station in Bowburn, Co Durham, with smoke in an attempt to microwave a packet of crisps. The incident happened as the Leicester City fan, 42, was travelling home from Tuesday's cup tie at Sunderland.

Accused woman 'acting'

A MEMBER of an amateur dramatic society appeared to be "acting" when she collapsed after bludgeoning and stabbing her lover's wife to death, a court was told yesterday.

Jenny Cupit, 34, from Warrington, Cheshire, a former hairdresser, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Kathryn Linaker, a 33-year-old deputy head teacher, who died at her home, also in Warrington, on 17 April last year.

The jury at Chester Crown Court yesterday heard a written statement from Kenneth Fellows, who has 20 years' service with Mersey Regional Ambulance Service. He said: "The young girl dropped to the floor. It was as if she was acting."

Mrs Cupit conducted a 16-month affair with Mrs Linaker's husband, Chris.

The Linakers met Mrs Cupit and her husband, Nick, while members of the Warrington-based Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society.

The trial continues today.

Chipperfield convicted in cruelty case

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, a member of the most famous circus family in the world, was convicted of 12 counts of cruelty to a baby chimpanzee.

Animal-rights campaigners were jubilant at winning the first circus cruelty case brought to court and pledged to continue their fight to ban animal circuses. Jan Creamer, of Animal Defenders, who co-ordinated the investigation into Chipperfield and her husband, Roger Cawley, said they would take their evidence to the Government. "This is the beginning of the end for animal circuses. When the public realises the appalling conditions these animals have to live in, they will not want to go to the circus."

Andover magistrates' court was shown video evidence of Chipperfield beating Trudy, an 18-month-old chimp, with a riding crop. She also kicked it in the back, the court heard. At one point she took away its only toy, saying "You can bloody cry", as Trudy sobbed.

Chipperfield denied cruelty and told the court: "I don't regret anything. I haven't done anything abusive to harm any of my animals."

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Cawley, a licensed zoo inspector, was also convicted of one count of cruelty to a sick elephant. The couple were acquitted of six counts each of permitting unnecessary suffering to elephants and Chipperfield was cleared of a further three counts of cruelty to camels.

Anne Rafferty, QC, who defended the couple, said Chipperfield would be applying to have the chimp, which has been living with a family in Dorset, returned. Yesterday's conviction followed an undercover investigation by Animal Defenders, an animal-rights group which did a study of the treatment of animals in circuses and training centres.

The inquiry began when a young man calling himself Spike arrived at Chipperfield's farm near Andover, Hampshire. The farm has no connection with Chipperfield Circus.

Chipperfield employed him as a "beastman", looking after big cats. A week later "Anne" arrived, claiming to be a friend of Spike. She told Chipperfield she was homeless and would work for nothing, for lodging in

a bungalow on the farm. Spike lived in his camper van, earning £10 a day. Pleased at the thought of getting two for the price of one, Chipperfield agreed. But the young couple, who did not socialise with the rest of the workers, were undercover investigators.

Terry Stocker and Rachel White spent four months on the farm. On the surface they were a hard-working couple, looking after big cats, llamas and chimpanzees. But in the evening, declining offers of a drink from the rest of the staff, they returned to their digs and, in covert phone calls to head office, reported what they had seen.

They also installed cameras in cages and wore cameras disguised to look like buttons. The film was edited into a 21-minute version used as evidence in the trial.

It took four months to obtain the evidence, after which Ms Creamer ordered the couple to pull out. "They were exhausted by the strain of living undercover for so long and not being able to see their family and friends," she said.

The case was adjourned to April for sentencing.

Roger Moore sues TV firm

THE FORMER James Bond actor Roger Moore is suing a television company over the rights to his Seventies TV series *The Persuaders*.

Moore, who played urbane Lord Brett Sinclair opposite Tony Curtis in the series, launched a legal claim this week for up to £100,000 against ITC Entertainment Group, a subsidiary of Polygram.

The film star, who lives in Switzerland, claims he signed a deal with ITC in 1970 over the UK rights to *The Persuaders* as well as his Sixties cult hit series

By JOHN WILLCOCK

The Saint. Under this agreement ITC could rerun all 24 episodes of *The Persuaders* in the UK up to three times. After that it would have to negotiate a new deal. A similar agreement was made over *The Saint*, Moore says.

Years passed and the two series gained a cult following for their inadvertent camp humour.

In February 1998, ITC wrote to Moore, asking whether it could reshoot *The Saint* and *The Persuaders* on Granada

Sky Broadcasting, a joint venture between Granada and Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB. ITC was now owned by Polygram.

Moore alleges ITC made a deal to reshoot *The Saint* for £100,000, but also included *The Persuaders* in the deal, without his consent, and without any extra payment. GSKyB started showing reruns of *The Persuaders* from August. The actor's lawyers say he would have sought a fee of £100,000.

A spokeswoman for Polygram said: "We have no comment to make at this stage."



Members of the Pina Bausch dance company, who appeared at Sadler's Wells last night in their first London performance in 17 years
Laurie Lewis

Spandau Ballet battle over fees

By LOUISE JURY

"TO CUT A LONG Story Short", as their very first single put it, the New Romantics have fallen out of love.

At the High Court in London yesterday, the pop star Gary Kemp, 38, sat grim-faced as three former colleagues from Spandau Ballet, one of the hit bands of the Eighties, claimed he had done them wrong.

Tony Hadley, vocals, 39, John Keeble, drums, 39, and Steve Norman, lead guitar and sax, 38, are embroiled in a bitter dispute over royalty cheques.

The members of Spandau Ballet were teenage friends who did their first concert under the unlikely name of The Roots while at school in Islington, north London. As *The Roots* they never made it but renamed Spandau Ballet, they became "a sensation".

"It seems to me an inspired name," the Judge, Mr Justice Park, said, in a brave attempt to show the judiciary's common touch. "A wonderful name".

From the start, Gary Kemp (his brother Martin, another Spandau star, who is now in BBC's *EastEnders* is not involved in the case) wrote the lyrics and the music. For this he received half the publishing royalties, and gave the other half to the rest of the band.

But where the dispute has arisen is whether this was a "gesture of pure generosity", as band manager Steve Dagger saw it, or whether it was, as the other members agreed, their share. They have received no publishing royalties since 1988.

Andrew Sutcliffe, for the three plaintiffs, said they contributed to the songs but the band was more than just music anyway. "The band's look was crucial to selling the band's songs," he said.

No figures were put before the court as to what the plaintiffs might hope to gain, although Mr Kemp is believed to have made millions and he clearly intends to keep them.

In a statement issued outside the court, he said: "It has besmirched the history of the band I was proud of." The case continues.

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Fairness at Work Bill: New legislation to protect employees against wrongful dismissal for exposing malpractice



STANLEY ADAMS

He helped to uncover price-fixing by his employer, Hoffman La Roche, a Swiss-based multinational drugs company, in 1973. His anonymous testimony led to Roche being fined £215,000 by the European Court. He was charged under Swiss law with giving away economic secrets to a foreign power, bailed, and fled to England. The EC later awarded him compensation.



PAUL VAN BUITENEN

A Dutch auditor working for the European Commission, he claimed earlier this month that Brussels has covered up huge multi-million pound frauds and blocked inquiries into financial irregularities involving huge sums of taxpayers' money. He was suspended for four months on half pay for allegedly breaking commission rules by handing over the information.



STEPHEN BOLSIN

Dr Stephen Bolsin exposed high mortality rates among babies who received heart operations at Bristol Royal Infirmary. Out of 53 babies operated on by two doctors between 1988 and 1995, 29 died and four suffered brain damage. Surgeons James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana were found guilty of serious misconduct. Dr Bolsin emigrated to Australia.



IAN HOPKINS

The head of treasury and risk at Barings at the time of the bank's collapse in 1995, when Nick Leeson, the Singapore-based trader, ran up losses of more than £800m through unauthorised trading, told the Commons Treasury select committee investigation into the affair in 1996 that his attempts to warn more senior executives about potential problems had gone unheeded.

Cash backing for staff who blow whistle

WORKERS SACKED for disclosing corruption or life-threatening practices by their employer will qualify for unlimited cash compensation under a "whistleblower's charter" to be announced by the Government.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided to exempt whistleblowers from a new ceiling on payments to people who have been unfairly dismissed. The maximum compensation for other workers will rise from £12,000 to £50,000 under the

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

Fairness at Work Bill, extending workplace rights, which is to be published today.

Mr Byers has decided that employees who expose malpractice deserve more protection than other staff. "We are talking about brave people who risk their entire careers by speaking out," a government source said last night.

The move will allow employment tribunals to order companies to pay unlimited compensation to a whistleblower who acts in the public interest. Ministers hope this will encourage workers to speak out.

The decision represents a U-turn by the Government, which had previously rejected Tory demands to remove the "cap" on the payments to try to make highly paid employees more likely to reveal corruption.

Mr Byers will announce shortly that the Public Interest Disclosure Act, which was passed by Parliament last year, will take effect in March. It was introduced as a private member's Bill by Richard Shepherd, a Tory backbencher, but won the Government's backing.

The measure will protect workers from recriminations by their employers when, acting in

good faith and in the public interest, they report actual or suspected wrongdoing. It will apply to most individual employees, including agency workers and homeworkers, though not to self-employed professionals such as accountants and voluntary workers or in the police, the armed forces and the security services.

For disclosures to be protected, the worker making them will need to have a "reasonable belief" that a crime or miscarriage of justice had taken place or was likely to take place, or that a legal obligation was likely to be infringed.

In cases of "exceptionally serious failure" there would be no requirement for a worker to raise the concern internally before passing information to a third party such as the media.

The Institute of Directors has suggested that a whistleblower has a more than a four-in-five chance of being sacked if he or she is identified. Few whistleblowers have the money or the stamina to fight wrongful dismissal before an industrial tribunal alone. Even in successful cases, pay-outs have been derisory and whistleblowers left blacklisted.

Analysts have estimated that fraud alone may cost British companies about £15bn a year - 5 per cent of turnover.

Murdoch may not like Bill

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to risk the wrath of Rupert Murdoch in a key clause of the "fairness at work" Bill.

Ministers have decided employees will have the power to scrap management-sponsored staff associations in favour of independent unions. *The Independent* understands.

This clause could mean the end of Mr Murdoch's ambitions to encourage an in-house employees' organisation at the Wapping newspaper plant.

Senior Labour Party sources believe the association envisaged by the newspaper magazine for his News International employees would fail to win the approval of the official Certification Officer, who is the arbiter of union independence.

The "anti-Murdoch" clause is another indication that the Government is prepared to take on the tycoon where necessary. The Prime Minister already believes the Government might have to live with Mr Murdoch's Euroscepticism and not allow it to influence policy.

Today's Bill envisages a whole range of new rights for employees on such issues as

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

parental leave and will also include clauses on compulsory union recognition.

Under proposals in the Bill, which Mr Murdoch and other newspaper companies attempted to delay, employees will be able to trigger a ballot on the continued existence of what the Labour movement would call a "sweetheart" union. If 40 per cent of the workforce support abolition, then it will be scrapped.

Employees could then hold a vote on the recognition of an outside organisation, with the same level of support required for it to win bargaining rights. Automatic recognition will normally awarded to unions with 50 per cent membership.

A spokeswoman for News International, which owns *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *The News of the World*, was sceptical that outside unions would win bargaining rights, although a survey was said to show that 37 per cent of the employees wanted "third party representation".

Microchip could replace medicine

AMERICAN SCIENTISTS are developing a "smart" tablet - a microchip packed with drugs rather than data - to replace painful injections, bulky pills and foul-tasting medicines.

It might even lead to "smell-o-vision": the chip could be instructed, via a television signal, to release particular scents.

Scientists say the "pharmacy on a chip" could be swallowed or implanted under the skin, and programmed to release minute amounts of drugs at precisely defined times.

The system, being developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, could be a reality within years. "It's a drug delivery system but it could be used for anything," said Dr Robert Langer, one of the three-man team that has al-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

ready got two patents on its work. The prototype could one day be used to deliver pain relief or cancer drugs, in medical diagnostic tests, or in any capacity to deliver one or more chemical compounds in specific amounts at specified times.

The chemical compounds emitted would not be limited to drugs: jewellery could give off scents, while a television-linked one might offer salt-air smells when pictures of oceans appear and floral aromas for gardens.

"This is the kind of prototype that may one day make those things possible," Dr Langer, a professor of chemical and biochemical engineering, told the journal *Nature*.

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*The World's Most Admired Companies, *FORTUNE* magazine, 26th October 1998.

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DAVID AARONOVITCH

I was shocked by the attitude of some of the hospital's workers

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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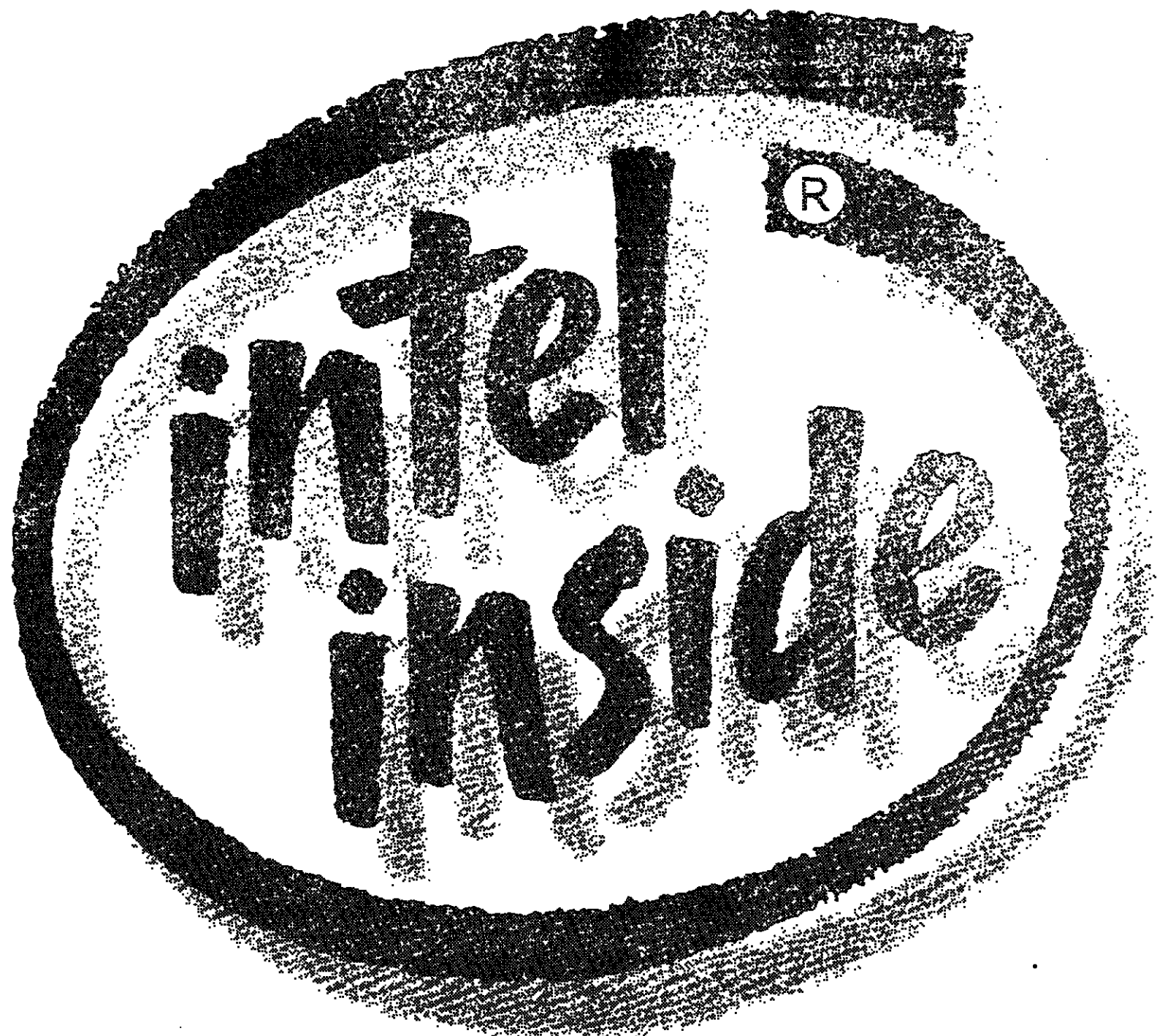
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NEW PAGE 3

Traders in revolt on food 'poll tax'

THE LAUNCH of the Government's long-awaited independent food standards watchdog was overshadowed last night by a dispute over a £90 "poll tax" to be levied on every food shop, cafe and restaurant.

Small business leaders protested that corner shops and fast food places, such as kebab bars, will have to pay the same flat fee as supermarket giants to fund the start-up costs of the Food Standards Agency.

In all more than 500,000 outlets will be affected but Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, dismissed the protests, saying: "Quite a few people who run kebab shops are going to require the services of the agency."

Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, said the £1.70 weekly tax was no more than the price of a sandwich. The main supermarket chains - Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda - broadly welcomed the draft proposals, which are open to consultation.

But an intensive lobbying campaign was under way by the

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

small businesses. The Association of Convenience Stores said that its members were already struggling to compete with the big chains and another drain on their profits could lead to some going under.

The tax will be coupled with the existing food premises licensing system, but it will be made a criminal offence for food outlets not to register with local authorities and licensing may be extended to butcher's shops. Newsagents, selling ready-wrapped food such as crisps, will be excluded from the charge. An estimated 25,000 outlets will escape the levy, including mobile shops, and village fairs.

Ministers are hoping the agency will help to restore consumer confidence in the Government's handling of food standards, after the scandals and scares during the Tory years over BSE, CJD, salmonella in eggs and e-coli in meat. It will have a wide-ranging



Many shops like this one in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, say they should not pay the same fee as supermarkets

Andrew Fox

remits, from the farm to the high street, and will be seen as the fulfilment of Labour's election promise to introduce an independent body to oversee food standards.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will remain responsible for farm policy, but the agency will have power to

act where it affects public health across the whole food chain, including animal feeding stuffs, which were the cause of the BSE outbreak. Mr Brown confirmed it will have a remit to cover the health risks raised by genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

"It will certainly consider

the health issues associated with GMOs. It will make reports to Frank's department. If there are agriculture issues as with crops, it will send its report to my department as well," Mr Brown said.

The agency, which is to be based in London, will be free to publish its scientific findings.

The Chief Medical Officer will report to the agency and the Department of Health, not the ministry. Liam Donaldson's report, which recommended keeping the ban on beef on the bone - exclusively revealed in *The Independent* - is being studied by Mr Brown and Mr Dobson but ministerial sources

said they could not now override the findings.

The Health Secretary and the Minister of Agriculture appeared together at a public show of co-operation between the Department of Health and the ministry over the agency, after behind-the-scenes battles on the proposals.

Judges reprieve death row men

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

TWO PRISONERS facing the death penalty in Trinidad won a stay of execution yesterday after a landmark judgment in London.

The Privy Council, the final court of appeal for former colonies, decided that Darrin Thomas and Haniff Hilaire should not be hanged while their cases were being considered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

While the decision has been welcomed by human rights campaigners, it will be unpopular in Trinidad and other Caribbean countries where politicians support the death penalty as a way of curbing rising crime rates.

Thomas and Hilaire would have been the first men to be executed in Trinidad since Glen Ashby was hanged in 1994 as a stay of execution was being faxed from London.

Saul Lehrfreund, a prominent human rights lawyer, welcomed the judgment. He said: "There is judicial recognition from the Privy Council that

applications to international human rights tribunals should be fully determined before any execution takes place. The status of the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court has been regarded as a critical avenue of redress for violation of human rights."

Thomas and Hilaire have been represented by lawyers from two London firms acting pro bono - Lovell, White, Durrant and Simmons and Simmons.

Thomas was convicted in 1993 of murdering a taxi driver. Hilaire was sentenced to death in 1991 for the murder of the husband of his friend's lover.

Trinidad and Tobago will withdraw from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in May. Shalagh Simmons, co-ordinator of Caribbean Justice, a group that campaigns for the abolition of the death penalty, said she feared that after May those on death row would not have any international remedy to human rights violations.

School inspections lambasted by inspectors

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS are being "dumbed down" because of budget cuts and poor management by the Office for Standards in Education, Ofsted's inspectors said yesterday.

They accused Ofsted and Chris Woodhead, its head, of forcing thousands of talented inspectors out of the system by squeezing budgets and increasing workloads. They told MPs schools were not getting the high-quality service they needed to raise standards.

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Geoff Penzer, director of one of the leading agencies supplying school inspectors, said in a submission that Ofsted's policies "are leading to a haemorrhage of many of the best inspectors and a general 'dumbing down' of the inspection process. It's a recipe for mediocrity."

Individual school inspectors also joined the attack, accusing Ofsted of cutting the budget for

inspections by half, forcing thousands of the best staff out of the system.

The Commons Education Select Committee heard inspection teams often had to meet in their hotel the night before visiting a school to discuss their work. In most cases, pressure of work meant inspectors could only spare five minutes to give a teacher feedback and advice on their work.

Inspectors and contractors said scrutiny of schools had in-

creased since Ofsted was created, but that could be lost because experienced staff were leaving for better-paid work.

Inspectors are all freelance or agency staff who bid for Ofsted contracts to produce school reports. The pay of registered inspectors, who lead Ofsted teams, has been cut from £5,000 per report to £2,500, inspectors say. But individual team members can get as little as £160 for each day they spend in a school, a sum which

covers expenses and "writing up" time as well as the school visit itself.

A survey by the Institute of Registered Inspectors of Schools found nearly 80 per cent thought pay rates were too low and "endanger the quality of inspections". Fifty-five per cent said the system of checking the quality of inspection reports was unsatisfactory.

Andy Barson, past president of the National Association of Educational Inspectors, Advi-

sors and Consultants, said: "Schools are happy with the process, but the pressure on time is a problem for the team to do what is required and the end result is not of the quality required."

The findings echo the repeated complaints of teachers' leaders who have praised inspectors but attacked reports for inaccuracy and criticised Ofsted for demoralising teachers.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of

Teachers, said: "Mr Woodhead surely will have difficulty ignoring the criticisms of his own contractors, which reflect the criticisms of teachers. He can no longer dismiss the criticisms as self-interested and unfounded."

An Ofsted spokesman said last night: "If people leave, that's fine. We are confident that we have enough inspectors and enough high-quality inspectors in the system to maintain quality and to push it up, as we are doing all the time."

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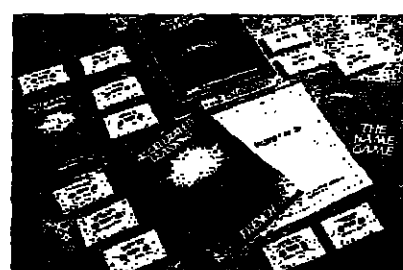
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10/HOME NEWS

Man has
historic
bump
on headBY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

A FILM EDITOR is trying to find out whether a pronounced bump that gives his head the shape of a German soldier's coalscuttle helmet links him to a woman buried in a tomb in the Orkneys 5,000 years ago.

The woman's skull was revealed among other bones after a tractor wheel broke through the roof of a neolithic burial chamber. The discovery has set Martin Pepler digging into his family history and the unusual condition known as "step head". The Orkney tomb is featured tonight on the BBC2 programme *Meet the Ancestors*.

The Museum of London has a skull with a similar bump from the 17th century, when as much as 10 per cent of the capital's population had stepped heads, but the programme makers could find no one with the condition living today. Then 53-year-old Mr Pepler, who is based in London, visited the museum.

"I have an extra ridge of bone on the back of my head which gives it a shape a little like a German helmet. When I was a child, I never wanted to get my hair cut short because I was afraid I'd get teased. But when I visited the museum, I thought, 'My God, that's like my skull!'" he said.



Martin Pepler, who has 'step head' and, inset, a 5,000-year-old skull from Orkney of the same shape. Tom Craig

Social Trends: Drug use, food and crime
**Big increase
in deaths of
drug users**

NEW OFFICIAL figures show that drugs are responsible for more than 2,100 deaths each year, three times as many as previous years.

The total gives a more realistic picture of the impact of drugs on British society, and it is based on a broader definition, which includes fatal accidents involving drug users. Earlier surveys had excluded deaths due to indirect or long-term effects of drugs, such as AIDS or road traffic accidents.

The figures are published today in *Social Trends*, an annual snapshot of life in Britain produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

It reports that officials from the Home Office and ONS have been working together to "reach a closer approximation of the number of deaths due to drug misuse".

The new definition records that 1,223 people in England and Wales died in 1997 from drug-related accidents, 474 from drug-related suicides and 418 where the cause of death was undetermined but where drugs were involved.

Social Trends reports that 61 British motorists, passengers and pedestrians killed in road accidents in 1997 tested positive

REPORTS BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

for illegal drugs and 27 for medicinal drugs. A further 97 were over the legal limit for alcohol.

Figures for drug-related deaths in England and Wales have remained at about 700 per year since 1994, with the total for Scotland about 120.

Social Trends includes a special report, compiled by the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, giving an overview of the extent and consequences of drug use in Britain.

The report includes statistics demonstrating the widespread use of illicit substances, particularly among the younger population.

Home Office research shows that 57 per cent of men between 20 and 24 have tried illegal drugs and more than half of the total number of people arrested by police in Manchester, London and Cambridge tested positive for cannabis.

Police seizures of cannabis increased seven-fold between 1991 and 1996. The report also notes a "worrying" increase in seizures of heroin.

It concludes that despite the efforts of researchers there

are still serious gaps in our knowledge of the extent of drug use in Britain.

The report states: "We cannot describe adequately those who are not receiving treatment, nor can we show how drugs are impacting on communities. We cannot say much about the degree to which drugs are available on our streets."

Last night Harry Shapiro, spokesman for the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, said: "We must realise that this wider definition of drug-misuse related deaths includes people who would not normally be regarded as drug-users, but who use drugs, including paracetamol, as a vehicle for suicide."

He pointed out that even with the wider definition of drug-related deaths, the figure was only a fraction of the 140,000 people who died from tobacco and alcohol misuse each year.

He said: "What we really need to know is how many people are reporting for treatment at accident and emergency departments. Who are the people being admitted, under what conditions and after using what drugs?"

**Food spending
takes smaller
slice of income**

DESPITE THE revolution in British eating habits we are spending a much smaller proportion of our income on food. Britons are allocating a much greater proportion of their income to buying the many household goods that have come on to the market in the past 30 years.

Food, to which we allocated 17 per cent of our income in 1971, now accounts for just 11 per cent, despite the almost constant cooking programmes on television. Spending on consumer durables such as microwave ovens, video recorders and personal computers has trebled since 1971.

The wider availability of foreign travel has helped to increase our spending on transport and telecommunications by 250 per cent in the same period, yet spending on food has gone up by only 25 per cent in real terms. That is partly explained by the wider availability of high-quality foods at low prices.

Social Trends records that people in employment buy 81 per cent of their fruit, 77 per cent of their bread, 69 per cent of their wine and 49 per cent of their milk from supermarkets.

According to a separate piece of research included in the survey, Pakistani and Bangladeshi families spend the highest proportion of their income on food while Indian households spend the lowest. This discrepancy is largely due to the comparatively low earnings of most Pakistani and

Bangladeshi households. The improved standard of living of most families in Britain has seen total household expenditure rise by 93 per cent to £501bn since 1971, and the food bill is, for most people, of diminishing significance.

But in 10 per cent of households in the United Kingdom the people said they could not afford to eat meat every day.

This was five times more than households in Spain and the Netherlands and double those in Germany in France. Only Greece, where 35 per cent of families could not afford meat each day, fared worse than Britain.

The richest tenth of the British population eat the most carcase meat and fruit but the lowest amount of potatoes and sugar.

For a married couple with one partner working, three minutes of average paid work were required to buy a pint of milk in 1998, compared with five minutes in 1971. A pint of beer cost 13 minutes of paid work in 1998, compared with 14 minutes in 1971, with a packet of cigarettes at 24 minutes in 1998, and 22 minutes in 1971. Potatoes cost six minutes of work for a kilo last year, compared with four minutes a generation ago.

Consumption of fish has slowly declined since 1971 and sales of lamb and beef have fallen by about half. Beef sales began their drop around 1980, well before the BSE scare.

Poultry consumption has taken off, doubling in 25 years.

**FACES OF
THE NATION**

■ Younger women have fewer children. On average, women born in 1937 had 1.9 children before they were 30, while those born in 1967 had just 1.3.

■ In 1961 domestic water consumption was 85 litres per head per day. By 1997 it had risen to 160.

■ Jack and Chloë were the most popular names given to babies in 1997.

■ There were almost 12,700 permanent exclusions from schools in England in 1996-97.

■ The number of working days lost through labour disputes in 1997 was the lowest since records began in 1891.

■ The proportion of household expenditure on food fell from 17 per cent in 1971 to 11 per cent in 1997, while that spent on transport and communication rose from 7 per cent to 9 per cent.

■ The prevalence of smoking in England is increasing among children and among young teenage girls in particular; in 1996, by the age of 15, a third of girls and over a quarter of boys were regular smokers.

■ The average duration of a stay in NHS hospitals as an in-patient has fallen from eight days in 1981 to five days in 1996-97.

■ Infants are more at risk of homicide than any other group, with a rate of 55.7 per million of population in 1997.

■ The percentage of women in Great Britain drinking more than 14 units of alcohol a week increased from 9 per cent between 1984 and 1996-97.

■ The area of woodland in the United Kingdom has more than doubled this century, to cover more than 10 per cent of the land area in 1996.

■ Visiting the pub is the most common activity outside the home. In 1997-98, 75 per cent of people over 16 said they had made such a visit in the previous three months.

**Police losing war
against crime**

FRAUDSTERS, forgers and thieves are the criminals least likely to be caught in Britain today.

Statistics released in the Social Trends study show that changes in the financial services industry have created criminal opportunities that investigating agencies have found it difficult to keep up with.

Back in 1981, before the massive increase in the use of credit cards, police in England and Wales detected 70 per cent of all frauds. But now most fraudsters get away with it and the clear-up rate for such crimes has tumbled to 48 per cent.

The battle against fraud is also being lost in Northern Ireland although Scottish forces have maintained clear-up rates at about 77 per cent.

Detection of thefts has plummeted in England and Wales from 38 per cent in 1981 to 24 per cent in 1997. Only one in eight thefts from vehicles is cleared up. Burglary detection has dropped from 30 per cent to 23 per cent in the same period.

Part of the explanation is that chief constables have concentrated resources elsewhere.

Detection rates for crimes against the person have increased over the past 16 years. Rapists now stand a 70 per cent chance of being caught, compared with 68 per cent in 1981.

But overall, the report says, detection rates are falling. "Clear-up rates fell between 1981 and 1997 in England and Wales: 38 per cent of offences were cleared up in 1981 compared with 28 per cent in 1997."

PUTTING MORE police on the beat can lead to crimes being solved, the government's spokesman said yesterday.

The Audit Commission found that despite the increase in recorded crimes, police are catching fewer offenders than in the past, the gap between the worst performing forces widening.

The report Performance Indicators 1997-98 said: "Some police officers are beginning to increase the proportion of crime cleared up. In forces, there were increases in the number of police officers but the percentage of crimes solved either stayed the same or fell."

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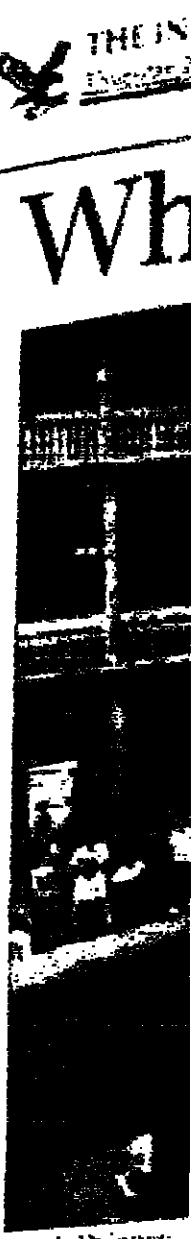
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PUTTING MORE police on the beat can lead to crimes being solved, the government's spokesman said yesterday.

The Audit Commission found that despite the increase in recorded crimes, police are catching fewer offenders than in the past, the gap between the worst performing forces widening.

The report Performance Indicators 1997-98 said: "Some police officers are beginning to increase the proportion of crime cleared up. In forces, there were increases in the number of police officers but the percentage of crimes solved either stayed the same or fell."

Why I want to play a queen, by Globe's director



Mark Rylance, artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe theatre, is extending his repertoire to play the part of Cleopatra *Geraint Lewis*

THE ARTISTIC director of Shakespeare's Globe theatre is defending his decision to play Cleopatra this summer and to cast an all male Julius Caesar.

Mark Rylance said yesterday he accepted he was depriving actresses of leading parts, but added: "I'm afraid I am not politically correct."

But he did reassure potential audiences that his Cleopatra would not have full frontal nudity as Helen Mirren's did in the recent production at the National Theatre.

Rylance's decision to cast himself as Cleopatra in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, which was revealed late last year in *The Independent*, was formally announced yesterday at a press conference to launch the Globe's season.

He also announced that all the female roles in the production would be played by men, as would all the female roles in *Julius Caesar*.

The 39-year-old actor will wear hand made costumes to play the role of Cleopatra - the first time in living memory a mature male has played it for

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

a major company. His decision to play the passionate queen of Egypt will have considerable reverberations in theatrical and scholarly circles, as Shakespeare's Globe is increasingly studied across the world as a centre of research as well as performance.

Asked about casting himself in the role, he stressed that it was part of the Globe's remit to explore the stage practices of Shakespeare's day, one of which was boys and men playing females roles.

Rylance said: "It doesn't seem very politically correct does it ... I'm sorry that we are taking a number of roles from actresses this year."

"But the English Shakespeare Company have had a Cleopatra, Helen Mirren played her at the National and Frances de la Tour is about to

"Our role is to explore original practices. Sometimes they will not be politically correct. So if you accuse me of being

politically incorrect, I have to say, 'Yes, it's a fair cop'."

Ryland said he had not yet cast an Antony to act opposite his Cleopatra. "I'm very choosy," he said. "He will have to have good breath."

He said that the production would help to "revive the sense of theatre as a place not only of physical reality but of imaginative reality ... I won't be self-conscious. It must not be camp. But I will be a woman,

"I am working on the range of my voice ... I want people to believe I love Antony as much as anyone has loved Antony, that I am jealous, that I am a Venusian character opposite the Apollo world of men."

He added that he was exploring the possibility of experimenting with women in male roles and had asked Dame Judi Dench if she would consider playing the part of Brutus in a future production.

"But she said the idea reminded her too much of her schooldays and school plays with girls in togas."

Schools internet plan crashes

THE HI-TECH future for schools promised by the Prime Minister is in jeopardy, according to a survey published by head teachers today.

Tony Blair has set aside more than £700m to put all schools on the Internet and link them to museums and libraries. He wants all pupils to leave school computer literate.

But the survey by the National Association of Head Teachers shows that some local authorities, which allocate the money, are giving schools seven times as much to spend as others. A few authorities are planning to give each school barely more than the cost of a single computer each year.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said last night: "The unwillingness of many local education authorities to fund their appropriate share of the National Grid for Learning is nothing short of scandalous." He has written to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, asking for an inquiry into the differences.

Charles Clarke, the Education minister, said yesterday: "The figures are tendentious and are based on the first two years of a five-year programme. "The money available up to 2002 will ensure that every school will benefit by connections to the National Grid for Learning and every teacher who needs to will have access to the right training."

Two years ago, the Stevenson report, commissioned by the Government, described the state of information technology in schools as "primitive": a third of primary schools had only one computer per class. The National Grid for Learn-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

ing aims to provide services, such as advice on how to teach literacy and numeracy, to all schools. Local education authorities have to bid for funds to pay for computers, software, networking and Internet links for schools. If their bids are approved, the Government will match the cash they spend.

But the heads' survey found "totally unacceptable" disparities in funding. For the two years from 1998 spending per school ranges from £3,335 in Derbyshire to £35,714 in Dudley, West Midlands.

The 10 authorities spending the most on computers are Dudley, Telford and Wrekin, Knowsley, Barking and Dagenham, Birmingham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Bristol, Kensington and Chelsea, Brighton and Hove and St Helens. The 10 spending the least are Derbyshire, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Northumberland, Sandwell, Enfield, Essex and Cornwall.

Graham Lane, chairman of education at the Local Government Association, said: "Local authorities have to have different priorities. The priorities they choose will depend on their different circumstances. The extra money the Government has given to education is not doing much more than provide a standstill budget."

■ The Government announced yesterday that it would provide £180m to pay for musical instrument tuition for pupils, to supply instruments for individual pupils and youth orchestras and advice and support for teachers.

More beat police 'don't cut crime'

PUTTING MORE police officers on the beat can lead to fewer crimes being solved, the Government's spending watchdog said yesterday.

The Audit Commission found that despite the number of recorded crimes falling, the police are catching fewer offenders than in the past. And the gap between the worst and best performing forces is widening.

The report *Performance Indicators: Police and Fire Services 1997-98* said: "It is sometimes thought that having more police officers is the way to increase the proportion of crime cleared up. In some forces, there were increases in the number of police officers... but the percentage of crimes solved either stayed the same or fell."

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

It added that "simply deploying more police officers does not reduce the amount of crime occurring in an area. A great deal depends on how those police officers are deployed." For example, Cleveland Constabulary, the home of zero tolerance policing, had seen a rise in the number of police officers and spending in the past five years. But it had experienced a fall in detection rates for violent crime and burglary and a drop in the number of crimes detected per officer.

The Metropolitan Police and the Merseyside force had seen big drops in numbers of police on the beat, yet they had managed important increases in crimes solved.



Judith Lancaster
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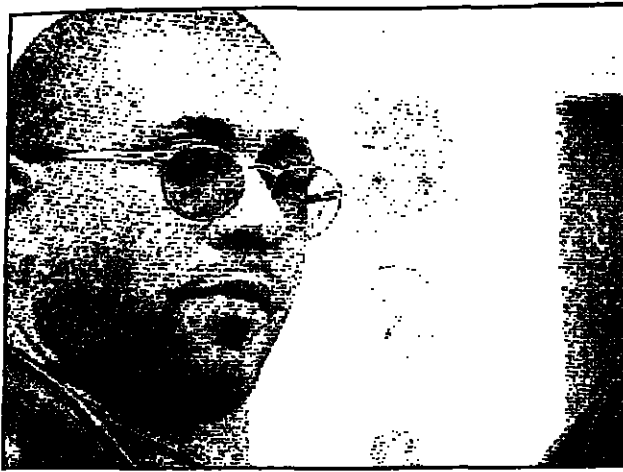
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Fly-on-the-wall television show uncovers 'wrongful conviction'



LESLIE JACKSON is serving a seven-year prison sentence for a killing he did not commit, according to claims featured in BBC2's controversial documentary series *Mersey Blues* next week.

Jackson was originally charged with the murder of Robert Casey on 5 November 1996. At his trial last March he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of manslaughter. He did so to protect members of his family from prosecution for corroborating a false alibi for the night of the killing.

Nearly a year after his conviction, Jackson and his wife, Linda, have now sworn affidavits in which they claim he was not even guilty of manslaughter.

Jackson says that although he was with Casey in Brae Street, Liverpool, at the wheel of the maroon Toyota in which the young man was shot, he did not pull the trigger. The shots were fired when Casey struggled not with Jackson, but with the occupant of the front passenger seat - Joey Cullen, Jackson's brother-in-law.

On the first morning of a trial expected to last four weeks, the defence and prosecution teams brokered a deal. If Jackson pleaded guilty to manslaughter, the charges of conspiring to pervert the course of justice

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

against his family would be put on file (dropped effectively) and the threat of prison lifted. "I found myself presented with the most difficult decision of my life," Jackson says in his affidavit.

"I was not responsible for the death of Robert Casey ... and under normal circumstances I would never have pleaded guilty to a crime that I did not commit. But I was told that I faced the possibility of my wife, her brother and my daughter going to prison if I was found guilty of murder. I decided it was a risk I could not take."

There was evidence to place Jackson in Brae Street, and that Casey had shed blood in his car. But there was nothing to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Jackson pulled the trigger. However, shortly before the trial, police discovered that Jackson had lied about where he and his wife stayed on the night of the shooting. If the prosecution could unmask him as a liar on the stand, then there was a greater risk the murder charge would stick and his family would join him in prison. Jackson accepted the deal.

The decision by Jackson's wife to come forward now with what she insists is the truth could reactivate the original



The BBC documentary 'Mersey Blues' (above) features Leslie Jackson (top), serving seven years for a killing he says he did not commit

charges against her and the threat of prison.

Casey, a runner for a gang involved in drugs and firearms, was a diagnosed schizophrenic on medication to control violent mood swings. He met the Jacksons' 20-year-old daughter, Lynette, in the spring of 1996, but their brief relationship ended in May when he threatened her with a gun.

A distraught Casey would telephone Ms Jackson at her parents' home, threatening to harm her and her family. When Casey asked to meet Jackson on 5 November, he drove

around with his brother-in-law, Mr Cullen, to Casey's flat. The police do not dispute that Casey prepared for the meeting by putting on a flak jacket and taking a loaded pistol.

Jackson says that Casey ordered him to drive around in the Toyota while they talked. Casey, apparently upset and agitated, told Jackson to stop in Brae Street. As he pulled over, Jackson felt the gun against the back of his head. He says he panicked, knocked the gun out of Casey's hand and into Mr Cullen's lap in the front passenger seat. Casey reached for it

from the back and, while Jackson tried to open the driver's door, Casey scuffled with Mr Cullen. As they wrestled, Jackson says he heard the gun go off. "I don't know who had their finger on the trigger when the shots were fired," he maintains.

Mrs Jackson says her husband wanted to go the police to say that Casey was the aggressor and that Jackson and Mr Cullen were acting in self-defence. She pleaded with her husband not to. Mr Cullen was on bail for attempted murder at the time, charges of which he was later cleared. But Mrs Jack-

son feared police would not believe them. "I kept looking and thinking, 'That's my brother'," she says. "It was so hard. Les wanted to go to the police, but I kept saying 'no' because of my brother. Joey had done me a favour by saving Les's life."

So instead they lied and the family concocted an alibi which said that they were with each other when Casey died.

Jackson and his wife resolved to tell the truth at the trial, but the plea bargain meant that nobody took the stand. Jackson was sentenced to 10 years, reduced to seven on

appeal. Mrs Jackson said: "Because Les pleaded guilty the police think they've got it right, but they haven't."

A spokesman for Merseyside Police said yesterday that, pending examination of the new affidavits, they were satisfied with outcome of the case.

The profusion of real-life "docu-soaps" are "dumbing down" television schedules, an expert said yesterday.

Richard Kilborn, a media lecturer at the University of Stirling, believes stations are using the shows as a cheap alternative to dramas and documentaries.

Deadly toll of road design

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

AT LEAST 300 people are killed each year because of design errors on Britain's roads, the Automobile Association claims today.

The group policy director, John Dawson, says: "Common design mistakes are repeated up and down the country. Many are easily avoidable and [changes could] ... prevent motorists, cyclists and motorcyclists being killed and injured."

Among the most common mistakes listed are:

- Failure to discourage high speeds at roundabouts;
- Confusing arrays of traffic lights at junctions;
- Encouraging motorists to drive at greater speeds on some roads than the roads were designed for;
- Poorly sited crossings for pedestrians;
- Lampposts on the wrong side of a crash barrier;
- Road signs hidden by overhanging branches or uncut grass; and
- Badly designed tactile (bumpy) paving for the visually impaired at crossings.

The AA says 1,200 people are killed every year because of excessive speed, 160 at pedestrian crossings, 70 colliding with lampposts and 50 at roundabouts. A spokesman said the 250 and 300 deaths related to poor design are "a conservative estimate".

Government figures show 3,599 people were killed on the roads in 1997, compared with 5,125 in 1987, and injuries rose to 327,544 from 311,473.

The Highways Agency, responsible for motorways and trunk roads, said Britain's roads were the safest in the EU, with stringent design guidelines. A spokesman for local highway authorities said: "No matter how well you design roads you can't ensure the drivers will drive safely."

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After the earthquake, a post-apocalypse world straight out of Dickens or Kafka

THE SCENE was how you might imagine a post-apocalypse world to look: part-Dickens, part-Kafka, pitch black with only flickering campfires to light hollow faces that didn't bother to look up at passing strangers.

As I walked through this earthquake-demolished Colombian town in the thick darkness before dawn yesterday, I felt as though everything was happening in slow motion. Armenia was the worst-hit town in Monday's quake, accounting for two-thirds of the 750 officially confirmed dead so far.

But it was not the odour of death, the lines of bodies in the morgue or even the eerie feeling that people were still alive in the rubble of buildings that sent chills up the spine.

It was the way tens of thousands of residents lined the streets in small clusters, huddled in ragged blankets outside their destroyed, damaged or endangered homes throughout the night.

Still numbed by the quake and a series of aftershocks - the latest yesterday morning just after 1am - most gazed blankly into their pine campfires as this lone figure stopped by to ask for their stories. But not all. One woman, 43-year-old Maria Eugenia Castro, insisted I drink her small cup of steaming-hot tinto, or black coffee, even though she said she hadn't eaten in the 36 hours since

By PHIL DAVISON
in Armenia, Colombia

the quake brought down her apartment ceiling. Another, Maria Olga Morales, 32, held up the half-inch-tall remnant of her last white candle so that I could take notes when I peeked under the plastic and corrugated-iron awning that now serves as home for her family, including her 60-year-old mother and six-year-old niece, Leidi.

Others begged me to ask world leaders where reported aid was going since they had so far seen none and needed food, blankets, candles, plastic covering from the rain.

As officials ordered the digging of mass graves and put out an urgent call for coffins, Armenia by night - with all electric power down - conjured up the end of the world.

Elderly men, women and children huddled together in heavy drizzle, most under sheets of plastic held up by pine or wax palm trunks but some under single blankets in fields or other open spaces. When dawn broke, some approached their homes to pick at the rubble with their bare hands in the hope of finding loved ones.

Many referred to the day's radio reports of the arrival of aid and rescue helpers from Mexico, Japan, the US, and even a team of Scottish thermal image experts to trace survivors amid



the rubble. But almost all said not an iota of food, clothing, blankets or anything else had reached them. Nor had any officials visited them to see their plight at first hand, they said.

Rescuers pulled out two little girls alive early yesterday who were trapped for 36 hours. One woman, now known here as the Music Box Lady, was not so lucky. When rescuers called out, the woman did not reply but a music box began to play. The rescuers assumed she could not speak and was trying to prove she was alive. By the time they reached her, however, she had died and her music box had fallen silent.

On the main square of Armenia - so-named because of its late 19th-century founders came from that country - rescuers yesterday dug at the rubble of a five-storey apartment block and a popular corner cafe called Sandwich Cubano. Officials estimate scores of people were lunching in the cafe when Monday's earthquake hit at 1.19pm and scores more were in the 27 apartments above.

Standing alongside the rubble, dotted by pieces of clothing, shoes, pillows, an old fridge, you could easily imagine people still in there, perhaps trapped in a space with air, frustrated, desperate, unable to alert the rescuers. After Mexico City's big 1985 earthquake, survivors were pulled out up to eight days later.

Armenia was by no means a poor town. Next to the cafe, the Bolivar Theatre, most of which collapsed, would have been frequented by wealthy cattle

ranchers or coffee farmers. Across the central Bolivar square, the regional parliament had slid sideways across the main 14th Avenue while its

taller neighbour, the regional Interior Ministry building, stood straight with nothing but a few cracks on its facade.

Next to the latter, a woman called Amanda Lopez stood all day staring at the rubble of an apartment block, removing debris with her hands, convinced her mother Mercedes would

Rescue workers carrying from a building David Acevedo, 16, who was found alive in Armenia yesterday, two days after the quake struck. AP

eventually emerge alive. Rescuers were nowhere to be seen. Climbing the rubble of the same building, a middle-aged man poked at where he thought his apartment might have ended up in the disaster, then let out a yell of horror, saying he had just seen his young daughter's arm.

Around the square, the newly homeless slept on the neat red brick surface, many of them covered only by blankets in heavy drizzle.

Officials estimated up to 250,000 people were now living rough here and in the rest of the so-called Cauca Valley heartland of Colombia's coffee industry.

In the city of Pereira, 25 miles from here, residents emerged to see widespread damage and at least 30 dead but found that the city's most famous statue had survived.

It is known as the Naked Bolivar and shows South America's liberation hero without clothes, an unprecedented avant garde work that caused shock when unveiled in 1963 but later won acceptance as a quirky town attraction.



Residents of Armenia lining up to receive water from a tank truck after the quake destroyed supplies. AFP

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Kosovo: Serb tanks bomb a strategic highway in the latest breach of the ceasefire. Raymond Whitaker reports

WE NEVER did fulfil our appointment with Commander Remi. The Kosovo Liberation Army officer had agreed the previous day to show us his positions in the north of Kosovo, near the ethnically mixed town of Podujevo, as long as we arrived at dawn.

At Podujevo, we left the asphalt roads controlled by Serbian forces and weaved our way along a succession of muddy tracks to the village of Llapashtica, reaching his headquarters before 8am.

But Commander Remi was unavailable. His deputy, Ismet Cakiqi, emerged from the KLA compound and said the Serbian forces were on the move. "If they are going to attack, they will do so between 9 and 11am," he said. "You can't stay here. Come back later."

Half an hour later we were in a Serbian café in Podujevo when the windows began to shake with tank fire. "It's good to hear them getting what they deserve," one of the other patrons said.

Heavy-calibre machine-guns and mortars joined the chorus, and the town's busy streets emptied within seconds as the reports echoed around the snow-topped mountains. Three Serbian policemen came in and sat down, but refused to say what was going on. "You'll have to go to our headquarters," said one.

A short distance outside town it was easy to see for ourselves. A small group of Kosovo Albanian refugees came running with bags under their arms from the direction of Llapshtica, but their progress was slowed by one woman who

was clearly in pain. "She gave birth yesterday," said another woman. "Someone else has taken the baby to safety."

Further down the same road a Serbian tank was blocking the way, watched by a huddle of monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). All day the "peace verifiers" were coming and going from their area headquarters in Podujevo, trying, like us, to establish what was happening, but no one had gone to Llapashtica. "It's too dangerous," said one.

Mortar shells were dropping on the road we had used earlier, and another route was blocked by a Serbian checkpoint where they had told us the previous day: "We don't want to see you again."

It was a long detour past occasional parties of fleeing civilians to the other side of the checkpoint, where an all-out race along an exposed stretch of asphalt and a screaming turn below a point 200 yards from KLA trenches brought us to Branac, the next headquarters of the guerrilla movement.

Here, the quest to find another way to Llapashtica and Commander Remi was ended by mud, impassable to all but military vehicles.

Back at Podujevo the Swiss head of the local monitoring team, Andreas Vogel, said it was the heaviest bombardment by the Serbs since OSCE arrived in the area a month ago, adding: "They are particularly incensed by the points where the KLA is very close to the main road, as they are at Branac."

For several miles along the highway south to Pristina, Kosovo's capital, tanks and armoured cars had taken the high ground to pour fire on the guerrilla positions, with very little chance of answering fire from the lightly armed KLA fighters.

Regular troops were augmented by police paramilitaries and balaclava-clad forces of the Interior Ministry's special anti-terrorist unit, which has been accused of setting up death squads to kill the KLA's supporters.

The day's events illustrated the hopelessness of OSCE's task, as well as that of Christopher Hill, the US peace envoy, who met KLA representatives in Kosovo yesterday.

A European Union representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, also met Ibrahim Rugova, the most senior Kosovo Albanian politician, in an attempt to arrive at a common Albanian position before autonomy talks are resumed, but the KLA has announced that it intends to bypass Mr Rugova and set up its own political body.

Continual violations of the October ceasefire are also wrecking chances of an agreement on Kosovo's future. After Serbian forces were withdrawn under the threat of Nato bombing, the KLA used the pause to expand their territory.

The Serbs are trying to win it back, and the unarmed international monitors are backed only by the threat of world opprobrium.

Mr Vogel said: "They are supposed to tell us when they make moves like this, but they never do."



A Serbian soldier aiming a heavy machine-gun at KLA positions along the Pristina-Podujevo road

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

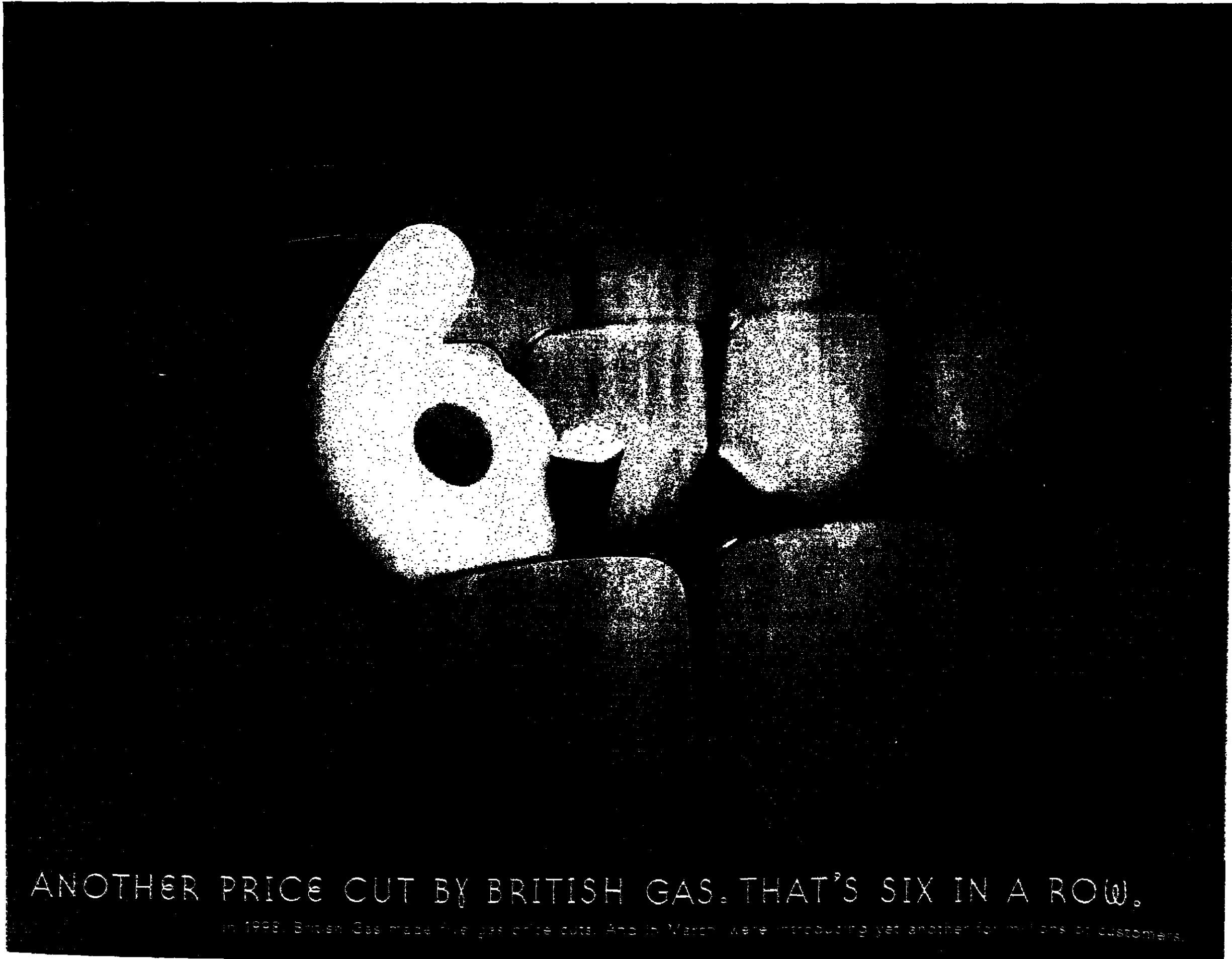
AS FIGHTING flared again in Kosovo yesterday, the West unveiled an ambitious peace plan aimed at a deal between Belgrade and ethnic Albanians before the end of February, granting wide autonomy to the Serbian province.

But even before the leading powers could formally issue invitations to a Dayton-style conference, both major putative participants were objecting. A senior Yugoslav minister said an internationally arranged conference would be "counter-productive", and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) — crucial to any valid deal — again refused to make common cause with the political wing of the ethnic Albanian majority led by Ibrahim Rugova.

Today Nato is expected to issue an uncompromising warning to Slobodan Milosevic that he faces air strikes if he does not pull back his police and army units. Tomorrow, the Contact Group - Britain, the US, France, Italy, Germany and Russia - will convene the conference, probably Austria.

It would start within a week, and last a fortnight. The proposed interim deal is based on the draft prepared by the US envoy, Christopher Hill, giving Kosovo an independent parliament and its own judiciary, police and education system. Elections would be held in six months, and all would be up for review after three years, in theory leaving open the option of full independence.

The conference, which would start as "proximity talks" before moving to face-to-face negotiations, would be mediated by Mr Hill and his European Union opposite number Wolfgang Petritsch. On agreement, Nato troops would "likely" be sent in to police the deal initially, said diplomats.



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Democrats fear witnesses

The Sun setting behind the scaffolding-clad Washington Memorial yesterday, as the Senate and the White House locked horns over calling witnesses

continues to divide along party lines, the Republicans' 55 votes are insufficient to convict the President and the Democrats' vote is unlikely to split, leaving Republicans at least 12 votes short of the two-thirds they would need to convict and remove Mr Clinton from office.

Vernon Jordan
ONE OF Clinton's inner circle, he is a classic Washington figure: he knows the byways and highways of power as well as anyone in the city. If you have a problem, Mr Jordan can help to sort it out. He works for Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, an

He has been quizzed by Kenneth Starr, in a prolonged and uncomfortable session where little was achieved. He claimed that many of the conversations between himself and the President and First Lady were covered by executive privilege: a judge disagreed.

covery of evidence useful to our defence". The threat was summarised by *The Washington Post* as meaning: "If you call witnesses, we'll fight back. And that could take a long, long time." It was dismissed by many Republicans as bluff.

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16/FOREIGN NEWS

Indonesia: After two decades of struggle and 200,000 deaths in the troubled region, Jakarta appears to ease its grip

Timor is offered 'freedom' at last

INDONESIA SAID yesterday it may grant independence to the occupied territory of East Timor by the end of the year. The words came too late - after 23 years, 200,000 deaths, and countless broken promises. But the fact that they were uttered at all was remarkable.

In a further capitulation to international pressure, the Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas, also said the imprisoned East Timorese leader, Xanana Gusmao, would be released.

The announcements were given a cautious welcome around the world, especially after reports of new killings in the former Portuguese colony, annexed by Indonesia in 1975.

But they represent a turning point in one of the world's most tragic and vicious small wars. Mr Alatas said East Timor will be granted "special auto-

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Tokyo

my", short of full independence. But he added that parliament would consider allowing the territory to break away completely after elections scheduled for June. "If the Indonesian proposal ... to give special status to East Timor is rejected," he said, "the Cabinet will suggest to the next MPR [the parliament] to consider letting go of East Timor."

The U-turn is the result of a combination of foreign lobbying, pressure from within the Indonesian government and Jakarta's desperate economic plight. The United Nations has never accepted Jakarta's incorporation of East Timor. Australia was the only country to recognise Indonesian rule over the territory. This month, how-



President B J Habibie chairing a cabinet meeting on politics and security in Jakarta yesterday

Reuters

ever, after years of criticism from lobbying groups and denunciations from Portugal, Australia officially announced that it may support independence.

Yesterday the British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said: "Our view all along has been that the solution to the problem of East Timor must be one that is acceptable to people of East Timor."

"We regard this very much

as a step in the right direction."

But East Timor's 800,000 inhabitants have little reason to trust Indonesia's offer. Almost everyone has lost family and friends in the war. "I am very sceptical," said Roque Rodrigues, an independence campaigner based in Lisbon. "Indonesia often says one thing and then does another."

Aid workers recently in the territory say 2,700 refugees

have fled their homes after violence between rival factions of pro-independence Timorese and gangs of thugs armed and trained by the Indonesian army. In the past, Jakarta has justified its claim to East Timor by fomenting conflict and moving in troops to "pacify" the region.

Pressure for Indonesia to settle the problem has mounted since the end of the 30-year rule of President Suharto.

Much of this has focused on Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao, commander of the East Timorese resistance, who was sentenced to 20 years' prison in 1993.

Yesterday Mr Alatas outlined a deal maintaining the fiction that Mr Gusmao is a normal prisoner. "He will not be any more in the jail, but he will be in a separate house. [But] don't call it house arrest."

Prison turns guerrilla chief into statesman

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

IT IS STRETCHING things only a little to describe Alexandre Gusmao, whose release into house arrest was announced yesterday, as the Nelson Mandela of East Timor - a former resistance leader transformed, by a spell in prison, into a leader of international standing.

When he was tried in 1993 he was a bearded guerrilla fighter who had spent 18 years living as a fugitive in his own land. By the time President Suharto resigned last May, Mr Gusmao had become a calm and besuited statesman, often photographed greeting visiting foreign leaders in the remarkably open confines of Jakarta's Cipinang Prison.

The British Foreign Office minister, Derek Fatchett, visited him there twice last year, as have processions of American senators and state department officials. In Timor itself he is adored, a poet, a renowned lover of women, and as commander of Falintil, the Forças Armadas Libertacao Nacional de Timor Leste, which was formed in 1975 when the Indonesian army invaded what was then an obscure Portuguese colony.

Ever since, the members of Falintil have lived in the thickly forested hills of East Timor. Their true names are often secret. Instead they are known by romantic noms de guerre. The acting commander is called Taur Matan Ruak. Mr Gusmao himself, who was captured in an ambush in 1992, is universally known as Xanana.

For the first three years of the invasion, Falintil held out, and tens of thousands of people lived under their protection in the mountains. In 1978 the Indonesian army began using supersonic jets, allegedly British-made Hawk fighters.

"The Indonesians were too strong," the number three Falintil commander, Lere Anak Timur, said last autumn, "so we changed the strategy from the war phase to the guerrilla phase - the war of movement."

The civilians returned to the lowlands where they were herded into relocation camps. Falintil remained in the hills, and in two decades the Indonesian military has failed to stamp them out.

During his trial in Jakarta in 1993, Mr Gusmao was forbidden from speaking in his defence, but he put out a statement that was released worldwide.

"I acknowledge military defeat on the ground. I am not ashamed to say so. On the contrary I am proud of the fact that a small guerrilla army was able to resist a large nation like Indonesia ... which in cowardly fashion sought to dominate us by the law of terror and crime."

In Cipinang, he won the respect of his guards and lived a remarkably free life, reflecting the importance with which foreign governments regard his continued well-being.



Timor's guerrilla leader Alexandre Gusmao

He remains the effective leader of Falintil, communicating with his officers through his many visitors.

The number of active Falintil fighters has dwindled over the years but the commitment of the population, if anything, is stronger than ever.

"Sometimes there might be ten of us, sometimes 20 or 30," says Mr Timur. "It is in the minds of all Timorese to fight against Indonesia and if Indonesia wants to kill Falintil, they first have to kill us all."

UK campaigner kept flame alive

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE BRITISH woman who has possibly done more than anyone to promote independence for East Timor was last night waiting for the regime to match its words with actions.

Carmel Budiardjo, 73, who has campaigned on Indonesian human rights issues for more than three decades, said: "This is the first time an Indonesian government has talked about independence for East Timor and in that sense it is a step forward."

However, while they might be saying they want to grant this independence they are still arming to the teeth, paramilitary groups who are going around killing those Timorese who say they want independence.

She added: "Indonesia is in such chaos at the moment. There are obviously a number of people high up in the government and the army who appear to think that both militarily and politically the cost of trying to hang on to East Timor is too high."

Ms Budiardjo was living in Jakarta with her husband, Suwondo, in 1968 when they were arrested. Their crime was to be members of the Indonesian Communist Party and to have had jobs with the previous government. Ms Budiardjo was interrogated, tortured and held

without trial for three years. Her husband was jailed for a decade. After returning to Britain to wait for her husband's release, Ms Budiardjo founded the human rights group Tapol (from the Indonesian words for political prisoner) in 1973.

Last year she played host to MPs, activists and officials when the group celebrated its 25th anniversary.

One of the campaign's low points was the Santa Cruz massacre of 1991 when 273 students and independence demonstrators were murdered in a cemetery by Indonesian soldiers in Dili, the capital of East Timor.

One of the highs was the 1996 decision of a jury in Liverpool to acquit four women from the campaign group Seeds of Hope who had smashed a British-made Hawk jet sold to Indonesia. The women successfully argued that because the Hawks were used to bomb the East Timorese, their action had actually prevented a more serious crime. Ms Budiardjo was a defence witness. She added: "People say I should be taking things easier, but retirement is not on my agenda."

East Timor on the Web: <http://www.ciuc.pt/Timor/netret.htm>

IN BRIEF

Kenyan resigns in IOC scandal

A KENYAN International Olympic Committee member, Charles Mukora, became the fourth member to resign in the bribery scandal. In Nairobi, he admitted receiving nearly £25,000 from Salt Lake City. He said the money had not been for personal use.

Europeans missing in Congo

NINE EUROPEANS, including two priests, were reported missing yesterday in a heavily forested region of southwestern Republic of Congo. They included five French nationals, a Dane and a German, said government sources. Names were not available.

Polar bear photographers fined

TWO MEN who chased a polar bear with snowmobiles to take photographs received from a court for the Svalbard islands the heaviest fine - amounting to thousands of dollars - to be imposed by Norway for disturbing the protected species. A passer-by videoed the chase.

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Pale Yeltsin makes TV appearance

A PALLID Boris Yeltsin appeared briefly on television for the first time in a week as the Kremlin vainly tried to dispel the impression that power over Russia has passed into the hands of his Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov.

Mr Yeltsin's fleeting return to public view yesterday after retreating to hospital with an ulcer amounted to a counter-attack in a skirmish over an attempt to sideline him for the rest of his term, in which Mr

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Primakov played a leading part. At issue is a proposal, sent to parliament by Mr Primakov, in which Mr Yeltsin would forgo his powers to dismiss it in return for a guarantee of immunity for prosecution for any crimes he may be accused of committing during his eight years in the Kremlin - a period marred by corruption and war in Chechnya.

It also provided for his safety and welfare after he retires, officially next year. The President's spin-doctors said it was unconstitutional but insisted there was no disagreement between Mr Yeltsin and his prime minister. But to the outside world it bore the hallmarks of an ambitious power play by a man increasingly seen as the heir to the Kremlin.

Signs have been growing for weeks that Mr Primakov, former head of the foreign intelligence service, is consolidating his power base. This week Yuri Kobaladze, former public relations man for the intelligence agency, was appointed deputy head of Itar-Tass news agency. He is the tenth former intelligence officer to acquire an influential new job during Mr Primakov's five months in office. Mr Primakov has several key advantages: the national media is mostly muted in its criticism of him and some heavy hitters - notably the in-

fluential *Izvestia* current affairs programme on television - barely disguise their eagerness to see him in the Kremlin. The support he enjoys ranges from the moderate wing of the Communists to the liberal Yabloko party.

Unlike any of his predecessors, there is little chance of being fired by the boss. Mr Yeltsin will not want a rerun of his defeat by parliament last year, when the State Duma refused to confirm his first choice,

Viktor Chernomyrdin, as prime minister.

Mr Primakov can also expect broad approval from the West. His interventionist economics chills the hearts of free-marketisers and investors. But policy-makers will view him as a better option than the other main contenders, the Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, the Communist Gennady Zyuganov and the former paratrooper general Alexander Lebed, now governor of a Siberian province.

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, saw Messrs Luzhkov and Lebed on her visit to Moscow this week. US-Russian relations have been strained by rows over Iraq, and US sanctions against several leading Moscow institutes for allegedly supplying missile and nuclear secrets to Iran.

But neither man will have offered Ms Albright any reason to hope for anything more palatable from them. Mr Luzhkov - a feisty nationalist who has

been frantically trying to raise his profile in recent days - upbraided her over US policy, while Mr Lebed made headlines by sacking the head of his regional state-run television channel, saying he saw it has his job to "provide the people with information".

Mr Primakov is a wily old bird, part Homo Sovieticus, part cautious reformer. But he is the devil the West knows and in this precarious habitat that matters a great deal.



Sea ice covering McMurdo Sound, the site of New Zealand's Scott Base Antarctic research station. Global warming could raise sea levels by as much as six metres (20 feet) in the next generation and the Earth could be heading for a mini-ice age, Antarctic scientists said yesterday. *Andy Solomon/Reuters*

Briton spurns job in Brussels as investigator

THE PLANNED sleaze inquiry in Brussels was dealt a new blow yesterday when Sir Gordon Downey, former parliamentary commissioner for standards in Britain, refused a job as an investigator.

Sir Gordon was canvassed for one of five positions on the committee to look into charges of nepotism, abuse of power and mismanagement in the European Commission. He could not accept because of the short notice, and because other commitments meant he could not begin the work immediately.

Earlier attempts by British MEPs to nominate Lord Nolan also failed when he said he did not have the time needed to devote to the inquiry.

Sir Gordon's refusal coincided with criticism of the proposed panel from the second largest group in the parliament, the European People's Party, whose chief whip warned of a "whitewash" and said he

By STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

would have preferred a greater "northern" regional balance. That was code for suggesting those from Spain, France and Belgium might accept laxer standards because of the culture of their national administrations.

In another development, the European Commission's press service denied authorship of a memorandum calling for a more manipulative style of news management to counteract negative publicity.

The document suggested using "potential allies" in the media rather than giving equal access to all journalists. The spokesperson for Jacques Santer, European Commission president, denied having seen the paper.

Sources suspect the office of the French commissioner Edith Cresson.

Mercenaries, prostitutes and other hotel guests

WHEN THINGS are really bad - when the power station has been bombed, the telephone exchange has been machine-gunned and half the population has gone into exile - there are still hotel guests.

At the Cape Sierra in Freetown - a flaking concrete complex where you pay a \$500 deposit at check-in in case you die before check-out - the only new guests are journalists, mercenaries and prostitutes.

We make an extremely homogeneous professional threesome. Journalists who want to get about quickly travel with prostitutes. The four-wheel-drive vehicle that comes to collect the women servicing Ecomog - the West African in-

tervention force fighting the rebels here - is never stopped at roadblocks.

Journalists who want reliable information get it at the Cape Sierra bar, from the mercenaries. So do the Royal Marines. They fly in periodically from HMS *Norfolk* for beers with Neil (South African), Fred (Fijian), J-J (French) and Mathieu (French) - all working for Ecomog.

Fred, 58, took seven prostitutes up to his room the other night. There is also a certain amount of business between prostitutes and journalists - the adrenalin of dicing with death seems to make everyone hungry, thirsty and rampant.

Rose Marie, Agence France

Presse's energetic reporter, indulged two of those urges a few days ago. After three weeks of prawns with rice - usually the only dish available at the Cape Sierra - she hired Angel, one of the prostitutes, to cook delicious spicy chicken for half a dozen of us. She also sent Mathieu out for some Beaujolais. He flies surveillance missions in the Sierra Leone Air Force's only plane, a clapped-out Partenavia Viator. We think he got the bottles in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, 20 minutes away, but of course he cannot reveal where he went.

The Cape Sierra, on a peninsula bordered by deserted white-sand beaches, which are said to be the best in Africa,

also has a few other guests. Nigerian soldiers from Ecomog - extremely young and terribly jittery - sleep on every landing, their FN30 rifles cocked for action. Sleep-walkers beware.

The routine rape, mutilations, abductions, haphazard shooting and people begging for help seem to escape Andrej. Like something that the Cold War left behind, he describes himself as "Russian in theory"; he was born in Belarus but he has not been back for years and cannot see himself ever leaving Sierra Leone.

Andrej owns and occupies

STREET LIFE FREETOWN

the hotel's defunct business centre, a darkened basement room full of state-of-the-art computers, all of them useless in the present climate.

On Sunday, the most amazing thing happened. A man called Jimmy turned up and said he was the hotel's tennis coach. Would I like a game? I declined, not because I did not bring my tennis gear - not even trainers - but because the prospect of playing in Freetown seemed utterly bizarre.

Later, the sight of Jimmy and Don, the American manager of the hotel, marching off

to the court in white shorts and socks filled me with more hope than has any other single sight in the past week. It seemed so normal - like stopping the First World War at tea time.

This is a story that has reduced most of us to tears. There are experienced war correspondents here - from Reuters Television, BBC, *Le Figaro* and others - but none of us has been immune in the face of sniper fire and the horrible sight of men, women and children whose hands have been cut off by machete-wielding rebels in east Freetown. Most of us knew Myles Tierney, the Associated Press television news producer who was shot dead two weeks ago in an Ecomog convoy.

There is great solace, therefore, in times spent at the bar with the seemingly Teflon-coated mercenaries and their female hangers-on. Last Friday was the second birthday of Fred's daughter, F1, so he stuck two candles to the bar and shared out a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label.

Any outsider would probably find the sight of us all sad and pathetic. But amid the unbelievable realities of a brutal war such as this, the bar of the Cape Sierra feels like the only place in the world where we can talk about what we have experienced.

There is, of course, much banter. J-J, who is 40, says he is getting too old for this game.

Mathieu, on the other hand, is 26 and likes being a mercenary. But in the 10 months he has been working for Ecomog, he has not been paid. "I am going to have to move on. I was paid at the beginning but I'm owed \$25,000. Besides, I'm tired of flying a rotten plane."

Fred, known as "the Fijian" has no doubts. "I used to do this for money but now I do it for Africa. This continent has been fucked up by white men. This whole war is about control of diamonds. Who makes money from diamonds? White men."

When things are really bad, ordinariness itself - like a tennis match or a bottle of wine - seems unreal.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Disney ponders second Paris park

EURO DISNEY, the French theme park 39 per cent-owned by Walt Disney Company, is considering a second park at the Paris site. It has launched a pilot scheme for a park celebrating television and cinema, and has begun talks with the French authorities. Work could start at the end of 1999 with the site opening at the start of 2002. It would represent a £1.4bn (£1.46m) investment and create 5,000 direct or indirect jobs. But analysts were sceptical: "Will banks finance a new park when the first one isn't sorted out?" said Nigel Reed, analyst at Paribas Capital Markets. The news came as Walt Disney announced lower-than-expected first-quarter results showing an 18 per cent profit fall to \$622m (£377m) due to poorer figures from home video, Disney stores and licensing.

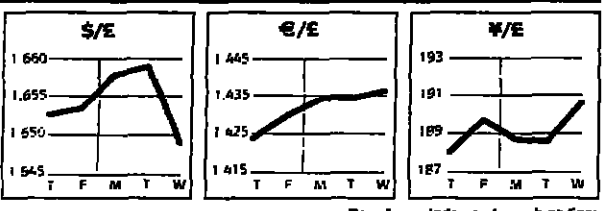
EasyJet plans market take-off

EASYJET, the low-cost airline, aims to float on the stock market next year, its chairman said yesterday. Stelios Haji-Ioannou (pictured) said he hoped to take the airline public early in 2000. The airline, owned by Mr Haji-Ioannou and two other family members, shelved plans to float after the market crash last year. Funds raised will be used to buy 42 new Boeing 737-300 aircraft. A spokesman said EasyJet's load factor and yield figures showed it not been adversely affected by the launch of Go!, BA's low-cost airline. As a result, EasyJet was dropping its appeal to the European Commission that BA was abusing its market power.

Stoy to merge with Moores

STOY HAYWARD will create Britain's sixth-largest accountancy firm by merging with Moores Rowland. Under the agreement in principle announced yesterday, Stoy's 232 partners and 2,000 staff in 35 centres will in March link with Moores Rowland's London, South-east, Walsall and Brighton offices to create a firm with revenues of £150m.

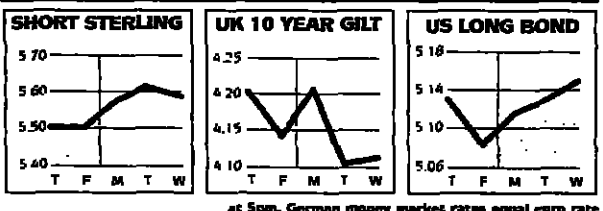
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5876.40	-3.30	-0.16	6195.60	4599.20	2.74
FTSE 250	4903.30	-46.50	-0.96	5970.90	4247.60	3.36
FTSE 350	2774.10	-0.30	-0.01	2969.10	2210.40	2.84
FTSE All Share	2677.42	-0.75	-0.03	2896.32	2143.53	2.88
FTSE SmallCap	2102.80	-2.30	-0.11	2783.20	1834.40	3.63
FTSE Fledgling	1180.60	-1.10	-0.09	1517.10	1046.20	4.58
FTSE AIM	831.20	3.40	0.41	1146.90	761.30	1.20
FTSE Eurotop 100	2729.15	5.52	0.20	3079.27	2018.15	2.16
FTSE Eurotop 300	1191.12	3.58	0.30	1332.07	880.63	2.02
Dow Jones	9289.83	-35.78	-0.38	9647.96	7400.30	1.65
Nikkei	14450.06	98.05	0.67	17352.55	12787.90	1.01
Hank Seng	9719.96	209.83	2.21	11926.16	6344.79	3.62
Osaka	5061.18	74.38	1.48	6217.83	3833.71	1.70
SEK 500	1251.61	-0.75	-0.06	1278.05	923.32	1.26
Nasdaq	2438.35	4.95	0.20	2475.38	1357.09	0.23
Toronto 300	6686.60	23.15	0.35	7837.70	5320.90	1.59
Brazil Bovespa	7730.75	95.11	1.24	12339.14	4575.69	8.13
Belgium BEL20	3363.52	-13.53	-0.40	3713.21	2522.09	2.11
Amsterdam AEX	531.59	4.95	0.94	600.65	366.58	1.85
France CAC 40	4098.10	26.82	0.66	4404.94	2881.21	1.97
Milan MIB30	33149.00	-57.00	-0.17	39170.00	24175.00	1.21
Madrid IBEX 35	9609.50	19.50	0.21	10989.80	6969.90	1.94
Irish Overall	5199.60	-16.22	-0.31	5581.70	3732.57	1.46
S Korea Comp	565.20	33.97	6.40	651.95	277.37	1.05
Australia ASX	2851.40	23.50	0.83	2902.90	2386.70	3.22

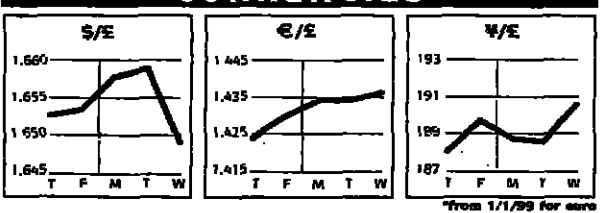
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. yield
UK	5.83	-1.73	5.53	-2.03	4.12	-1.97	4.19
US	4.97	-0.66	5.04	-0.64	4.71	0.98	5.15
Japan	0.47	-0.29	0.47	-0.26	1.90	-0.18	2.88
Germany	3.06	-0.47	2.99	-0.83	3.64	-1.45	4.56

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	10.91	0.02	15.42	GDP 115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	283.35	-2.80	300.65	RPI 164.40	2.80	159.92	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.08	-0.07	6.05	Base Rates	6.00	7.25	On at Sep

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5367	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.48
Austria (schillings)	19.17	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0726
Belgium (francs)	56.33	New Zealand (\$)	2.9550
Canada (\$)	2.4547	Norway (kroner)	12.04
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8080	Portugal (escudos)	278.13
Denmark (kroner)	10.44	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0366
Finland (markka)	8.3197	Singapore (\$)	2.6695
France (francs)	9.1596	South Africa (rand)	9.5326
Germany (marks)	2.7407	Spain (pesetas)	231.97
Greece (drachma)	449.89	Sweden (kronor)	12.48
Hong Kong (\$)	12.44	Switzerland (francs)	2.2520
Ireland (pounds)	1.0972	Thailand (bahts)	55.88
India (rupees)	63.29	Turkey (liras)	524935
Israel (shekels)	6.2373	USA (\$)	1.6184
Italy (lira)	2715		
Japan (yen)	184.82		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0372		
Malta (lira)	0.6101		

Liverpool Victoria faces £10m mis-selling bill

BRITAIN'S LARGEST friendly society, the Liverpool Victoria, is facing a £10m compensation bill after being fined a record £900,000 by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the financial services watchdog, for serious breaches of regulations by its 250-strong force of door-to-door sales people.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

The fine follows the discovery of gross inadequacies in record-keeping by the society's home life and pensions sales force. Liverpool Victoria has long prided itself on supporting low-income savers who traditionally get short shrift from the established financial institutions.

September 1997 the sales team had been radically restructured. Only one-fifth of the sales force are still with the firm.

The group has recruited the PIA's former head of investigations, David Nichols, as a new head of compliance and has completely overhauled its compliance procedures.

"This has been a difficult and painful period for the Liverpool Victoria group," said Mr Hurley. "The board believes that today's PIA announcement

draws a line under the group's historical problems."

The society is now trying to establish on what basis to compensate the 50,000 members it believes to have been affected by the lapses. Some of these cases go back to 1988. They are typically investors who contributed as little as £5 a month to the society's 10-year endowment policies.

Many of them were on extremely low incomes and had no bank or building society

accounts at all. They can expect to receive average payouts of about £200.

The PIA said that because of the society's failure to keep adequate records, it was impossible to determine whether these products were suitable for the people to whom they had been sold, or whether the sales force were properly qualified to sell the products they did.

"The fine is as high as it is because the failures were so widespread and fundamental," a

PIA spokeswoman said. Liverpool Victoria is now having to reassess how it serves this market sector in the light of the PIA ruling.

The group's marketing director, David Conway, said yesterday that the society was looking at how it could meet the PIA's compliance standards while maintaining door-to-door collections, without which many members would not have bothered to save.

Outlook, page 19

Northern steps up mortgage price war

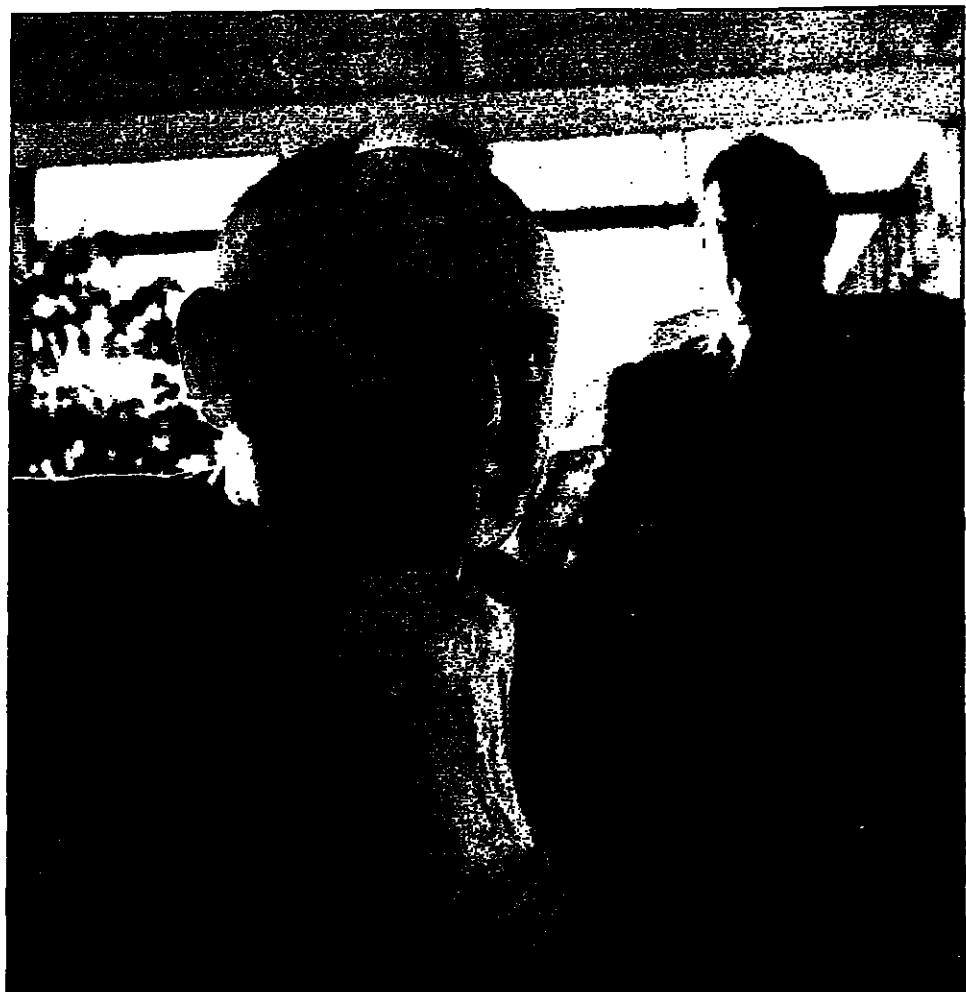
BY ANDREW VERITY

NORTHERN ROCK returned to the offensive in the mortgage price war yesterday, revealing plans for a combined mortgage and loan that allows customers to borrow more than the value of their property.

Attached to the mortgage will be an unsecured loan at the same rate of interest, the latest in a spate of up-front incentives designed to attract new borrowers. The mortgage bank is already offering borrowers a lump sum "cashback" of 8 per cent of the loan they take out. The bank is offering the deals as part of renewed efforts to beat off intensive competition from new mortgage players such as Standard Life and Legal & General.

Shares in Northern Rock fell by 6 per cent yesterday when the bank said it lent 53 per cent less in the second half of the year than in the first half.

The share price fell from 528p to 497.5p, valuing the bank at £2.34bn, as the City digested the second-half fall in new mortgage business. Northern Rock had grabbed 10 per cent of the total mortgage market in the first half, but fell back to just 5 per cent in the second period.



Northern Rock chief executive Leo Finn (front) and finance director Bob Bennett: New loan allows customers to borrow more than their property's value. Tom Craig

The bank said it achieved its aim of a 7 per cent market share over the year and pointed to profits up 10.3 per cent in 1998.

Amidst poor publicity over its

treatment of savers this year, which prompted the Office of Fair Trading to investigate, the bank received £901m in new retail deposits, against £1.02bn

the year before. Leo Finn, chief executive, said the bank delivered a "strong performance" in uncertain economic conditions.

Outlook, page 19

Brazilian turmoil to lop 12% from Pilkington profit

PILKINGTON, the glass maker, yesterday became the first UK company to feel the strain of the financial turmoil in Brazil with a warning that the crisis could cut profits by 12 per cent.

The group, which has a substantial operation in Brazil, said in a statement that the sharp devaluation of the real, the country's currency, could lead to a £15m charge on this year's earnings, expected to be around £125m.

Pilkington reassured the market that overall group profitability would be maintained, noting that "results for the nine months, at constant exchange rates, were in line with management expectations". Sources said Pilkington was still on course to meet its goal of improving last year's £120m profit, but they cautioned that the negative impact of the crisis could increase if the real fell any further.

The market, which had been worried by the effects of the Brazilian crisis, took heart from the statement and pushed the shares 3p higher to 54p. "The fact that the currency impact was no worse than expected has given a bit of a fillip to the shares," one observer said.

City analysts said that so far

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Pilkington was only suffering currency losses and had not seen a slump in demand for its Brazilian glass. The company derives about one-third of its profits from Latin America, and about 3 per cent from Brazil, where it produces glass for construction and car makers. However, industry experts warned that if the 35 per cent fall in the value of the real triggered a recession in Brazil, Pilkington would be hit hard.

The warning fuelled fears that other companies with Latin American operations could suffer. Recent research by HSBC, the investment bank, shows that the cigarette group BAT was one of the UK companies with the largest exposure to the region. Cement maker Blue Circle, Monument Oil & Gas and textile company Coats Virella have a number of interests in Latin America.

However, Richard Batty, global strategist at HSBC, said UK companies were well-cushioned against Brazilian fallout. "The overall exposure is fairly small. American firms are much more exposed and some Spanish firms have got huge operations in the region,"

Power watchdog warns generators over price rigging

THE NEW energy regulator warned yesterday that he was ready to clamp down on the big electricity generators after accusing them of rigging the market to keep prices deliberately high.

Callum McCarthy, the director general of Electricity and Gas Supply, said that there were fundamental flaws in the way electricity was traded, which the generators had taken advantage of in order to manipulate the electricity pool to their commercial advantage.

Addressing a conference of major energy users in Birmingham, Mr McCarthy said: "Such behaviour cannot be allowed to continue." Since privatisation, he said, gas prices had fallen 50 per cent, coal prices by 28 per cent and costs of new plant by 40 per cent, and yet pool prices had increased.

Mr McCarthy said he may seek to modify the licences of the generators - National Power, PowerGen and Eastern. He was speaking just a day after the Government conceded that it could not guarantee meeting its target date of April 2000 for overhauling pool trading arrangements - a move designed to reduce prices by 10 per cent.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

His remarks drew a furious response from the industry. The Electricity Association, the Association of Electricity Producers (AEP) and the Electricity Pool all claimed that prices had fallen sharply since privatisation, with charges to domestic customers 23 per cent lower.

David Porter, chief executive of the AEP, said: "I am surprised at the regulator's tactics. He does not need to indulge in this kind of thing to bring about changes."

Meanwhile, the European Commission waved through Electricite de France's £1.9bn takeover of London Electricity after refusing to hand back the merger to UK authorities for vetting.

However, the Commission confirmed that the UK would be able to tackle regulatory concerns raised by the takeover and amend London Electricity's licence as appropriate.

The Government put a brave face on the snub from Brussels - the first time that the Commission has ignored a demand from a member state to be allowed to vet a merger on public interest grounds.

Outlook, page 19

Non-EU trade deficit is worst on record

THE UK'S trade deficit with countries outside the European Union was the worst on record last year, according to new figures published yesterday, as exports to emerging markets plummeted and cheap imports soared.

The Office for National Statistics said the UK's non-EU goods trade deficit totalled £15.7bn in 1998, almost double the 1997 shortfall. In December alone, the goods deficit with non-EU countries was £1.6bn, according to official data released yesterday.

The news came as the Institute for Fiscal Studies warned that UK growth could fall to 0.4 per cent this year, far lower than the 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent in the official Government forecast. However, despite this gloomy outlook for the UK economy, the Chancellor will still meet his fiscal golden rule - only borrow to invest, the IFS said.

Economists predicted there would be no early let-up of pressures on UK exporters, which are struggling with both a high exchange rate and deteriorating economic conditions overseas.

David Brickman, economist at PaineWebber International, said: "The underlying tone is one of chronically weak exports, which points to a further widening of the trade deficit."

Economists at ABN Amro warned: "While falling rates and, at some point, a weaker pound, should bring the improvement in trade trends that exporters seem already to be anticipating, net trade will drag on growth right through 1999."

The figures also revealed a steady deterioration in the UK's trade position within the EU. The EU deficit on traded goods widened to £418m in November, compared to an October deficit of £290m. Economists said the fact that EU trade had held up better than non-EU trade suggested it was the Asian crisis, not the strong pound, that had most damaged UK export prospects.

John O'Sullivan at Greenleaf NatWest said: "For all the assertions about sterling's overvaluation against the euro bloc, export and import growth to and from the region has remained broadly in balance over the last year. The collapse in South-east Asia, rather than sterling strength against the DM bloc,

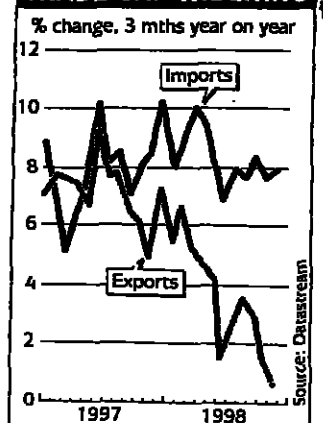
was the key reason for the UK's wider trade gap in 1998."

John Redwood, the shadow secretary for trade and industry, called the latest trade figures - which also revealed that the global trade deficit in goods hit a 10-year high in the three months to November - "appalling". Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, said he was "keenly aware" of the hardships facing many of Britain's exporters.

The only bright spot in yesterday's trade data was in the service sector, where exports in the three months to November hit a record high. The global surplus in services in November was little changed at £1.1bn.

Analysts said that although the trade figures underlined the pressures on UK exporters, they were no worse than expected. As

TRADE GAP WIDENING



such, the data are not expected to impact upon next week's interest rate decision by the Monetary Policy Committee.

Neil Parker, Treasury economist at Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "The market consensus was for a slightly smaller global deficit and a slightly bigger non-EU deficit. As for their impact on the Monetary Policy Committee, we expect this to be negligible."

The market shrugged off the trade figures and the pound strengthened against the euro amid speculation that the European Central Bank would soon be forced to cut interest rates on the Continent. The euro closed at £0.6963 compared with £0.6975 on Tuesday, and hit an all-time low against the dollar.

News analysis, page 21

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

IN ANOTHER busy session - share turnover topped 12 billion - blue chips wobbled after a bright start, although second and third-line shares moved ahead.

Footsie gained 103 points in the first six minutes of trading, but ran out of steam to end 9.3 lower at 5,876.4. Engineers rose on takeover speculation following LucasVarity: TI gained 30p to 350p and Morgan Crucible 16p to 188.5p. Reed International, up 41.75p to 571.75p, was an Internet play: it has set up 15 websites for its magazines.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

PRICES TURNED lower in late morning trading on profit-taking and futures-related sell programs. At 11:30am, the Dow Jones index was down 39.90 at 9,284.60.

Compaq Computer retreated from new highs after reporting a 48 per cent rise in fourth-quarter sales to \$10.9bn, while Internet wonder stock Amazon.com climbed after a fourth-quarter loss of 14 cents per share on Tuesday night, compared with forecasts of an 18-cent loss and a loss of 8 cents in the year-earlier period.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI 225 added 0.47 per cent, closing at 14,450.06, on buying of hi-tech issues, including Hitachi, Kyocera and NEC. The dollar edged up against the yen amid renewed concern over trade friction between Japan and the US.

Stocks opened moderately higher, but soon turned mixed on a retreat of major bank stocks. The market has been buoyed in recent days by bank shares, boosted by reports of mergers and alliances between Japanese banks and increased efforts to write off bad debts.

Hamish McRae, page 21

HONG KONG

STOCKS CLOSED sharply higher after China's central bank governor doused devaluation fears and an overnight rally on Wall Street boosted confidence. The Hang Seng index was up 209.83 points, 2.21 per cent, to close at 9,719.66. Battered China plays took off as investors hunted for bargains: the red-chip index rose 4.93 per cent to 725.57, while the H-share index rose 7.34 per cent to 325.87.

Interbank interest rates fell for the second day, helping to boost bank and property stocks.

SAO PAULO

SHARES ROSE in early afternoon trade with the Bovespa index up 1.58 per cent at 7,766 just after midday, although volume was described as very weak.

The real was trading at 1.90/dollar up from its 1.98/dollar lows yesterday. Traders said a rise in interbank rates and statements from the presidential palace and Central Bank strongly denying rumours of either a pending dollarization of the economy or centralization of exchange operations had calmed the markets.

Power struggle leaves a nasty smell

PERHAPS IT was too much to expect consecutive victories over the Germans and the French in the same week. On Tuesday Gerhard Schröder came to his senses and decided it would not be such a smart move after all for Germany to cancel its nuclear fuel reprocessing contracts with BNFL without compensation. First there would have been the court case with the British government. Then there would have been the trickier matter of what to do with 500 tonnes of radioactive waste arriving back on the German Chancellor's doorstep. As Mr Schröder's more militant Green supporters have ably demonstrated, trainloads of plutonium trundling across the German hinterland do not make for good public order.

The French, however, are made of more slippery stuff, and yesterday they won the tussle over where Electricité de France's £1.9bn takeover of London Electricity should be vetted. Brussels decided to keep the merger for itself and promptly waved the deal through on the grounds that who keeps the lights burning for two million Londoners is neither here nor there in the great European



OUTLOOK

scheme of things. So much for subsidiarity.

Having played the "national interest" card and been roundly ignored, the Department of Trade and Industry was left to sift the wreckage for scraps of consolation. The worst that regulators here will be able to do is tinker with EDF's licence.

But they will not now be able to stop the merger by referring it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Nor will they be able to ask the French why it is possible for EDF to buy London but impossible for London, or anyone else on this side of the Channel for that matter, to buy EDF. Nor, finally,

will they have the leverage to persuade EDF that the interconnector, through which it supplies 7 per cent of the UK electricity market, really ought to run in both directions.

It is easy to see why the French are so keen on the UK market. The new energy regulator, Callum McCarthy, let the cat out of the bag yesterday by conceding that the generators have been rigging the electricity pool for the past nine years. As it will take another few years before the pool is fully reformed and operating in a proper competitive fashion, there is still plenty of scope to make money at the consumer's expense. Backed by the bottomless pit otherwise known as the French taxpayer, EDF can hardly wait to get started.

But the real villain of the piece is the European Commission. From the moment the auction for London Electricity began, Brussels allowed EDF to drive a coach and horses through its own merger rules. The most important one is the rule that says companies cannot launch unconditional bids if the takeover qualifies for examination by the EC's mergers

task force. The rule was waived in the case of EDF, giving it a crucial competitive advantage in the final stages of the auction.

There is the unmistakable smell of stitch-up in the air and power politics that go far beyond parochial concerns about another vertically integrated player entering the UK electricity market. British Energy, the loser in the auction, could lodge a formal complaint, but it probably won't. At the least there should be an investigation into exactly how and why the Commission came to give the French such a free run.

Northern Rock

TIMES ARE tough in the mortgage market, which is why Leo Finn has found himself between a Northern Rock and a hard place. Last year the chief executive of the building society-turned-bank decided to sacrifice margins to build market share. Handing back £8,000 for every £100,000 borrowed ought to have been a surefire way of achieving that.

However, the Rock figured without the major league players in the

mortgage market also turning mean, not to mention Standard Life popping up with its own mortgage division. So while margins duly contracted, so did the Rock's share of the market. In the second half of the year, net lending shrank by more than a half, while the bank's share of net new lending fell from 11 per cent to 7 per cent.

In order to make up ground on those big ugly competitors such as Prudential, Mr Finn is launching a mortgage that permits housebuyers to borrow more than the value of their homes. Mr Finn calls it the Together mortgage. Most others would call it an unsecured loan. It was activity of this sort that helped create the unsustainable credit bubble of the late 1980s and then left homeowners and mortgage lenders picking their way through the rubble when the property market predictably crashed.

Never mind. Memories are short and Mr Finn has a new interest group - namely his shareholders - to keep sweet by proving that he is growing the business. The Rock certainly needs to do that. Its proportion of first-time buyers is well below the market

average, forcing it to rely on the less profitable remortgage market. Every customer Mr Finn signs up at rock-bottom rates is at least forced to buy some other product like compulsory insurance, so rising fee income is making up for shrinking interest margins.

But overall the Rock looks to have embarked on a high-risk strategy at a time when the housing market is flat in its north-east heartland and the Prudential has lain an egg that, by the Rock's own admission, is making parts of the savings market uneconomic.

The Rock's shareholders did not like what they saw yesterday. Those who are still building society members and who are tempted to become shareholders should take note.

Liverpool Victoria

WITH FRIENDS like Liverpool Victoria, who needs enemies? Britain's biggest friendly society has been fined a record £900,000 for a breathtaking failure to run its operations properly.

The customers who provide Liverpool Vic's bread-and-butter

are not the most sophisticated. A good proportion probably have no bank accounts and the money they hand over on the doorstep each month may be less than they spend on scratch cards each week.

All the more reason, then, for the society to ensure that its 250 salesmen (and women) were properly trained before being let loose on an unsuspecting and unsophisticated public.

Yet the majority appear to have been wholly unsuitable for the job to begin with and unable to make the grade once proper controls were belatedly put in place.

While taking their record punishment like men, the Liverpool Vic's top men still found time to moan that cost of complying with the admittedly onerous FIA rules will force a rethink of how societies such as theirs market themselves.

Many of those who only saved because a man from the society turned up once a month on the doorstep may no longer see a salesman at all, and therefore may no longer save. All of which is bad news for the Government's wider agenda of social inclusion even if our friends from the Liverpool Vic are not missed.

China insists yuan will not devalue

CHINA'S CENTRAL banker yesterday gave his strongest pledge yet that the mainland currency would not be devalued.

But Dai Xianglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, offered no cheer to foreign bankers who are smarting after being told they will not receive priority treatment following the collapse of Guangdong International and Investment Corporation (GITIC), China's biggest ever bankruptcy.

"[President] Jiang Zemin and prime minister Zhu Rongji have both said that the renminbi will not devalue. And as the person in charge, I reassure you that the renminbi will not devalue," said Mr Dai at a rare press conference. The renminbi currency is also known as the yuan.

Asian stock markets have regularly tumbled over the past year on fears that China was about to devalue its currency and spark a wave of competitive devaluations in the crisis-ridden region.

"There is no reason for the renminbi to devalue. The current foreign exchange reserves of China of US\$145bn exceed one year's imports for China, and the costs of exports are quite stable," Mr Dai said.

By TERESA POOLE
in Peking

China's currency is convertible only on the current account, for trade in goods and services, and not on the capital account, so it has been insulated from speculative trading. Nevertheless, regional markets have been extremely jittery about the yuan since the Brazilian real was floated this month.

Pressed on what factors might prompt a devaluation, Mr Dai said: "If you insist, I will say that the renminbi will only devalue when there is a great imbalance in the balance of payments of China, and there is a great increase in the cost of exports. But I do not think these conditions exist this year."

In 1998, China struck a record trade surplus of US\$43.59bn, while the retail price index fell 2.6 per cent. Mr Dai reiterated forecasts that China's GDP growth could reach 7 per cent this year, compared with 7.8 per cent in 1998, and announced that foreign banks would be allowed to extend their restricted operations from the current 23 cities to all major centres.

But this upbeat view will do little to ease worries about insolvent state banks or reduce the

shock from the GITIC failure.

GITIC, which is wholly-owned by the provincial government of Guangdong, collapsed in October, but it was only this month that it was revealed to have massive debts of US\$4.35bn against US\$2.58bn assets. Foreign creditors reportedly have around US\$1.2bn at stake.

These investment corporations mushroomed in the early 1990s as a vehicle for state units to raise foreign capital.

GITIC's foreign lenders had widely believed that their registered loans were implicitly guaranteed by the Guangdong government, but have now been informed they must take their place in the queue as the Guangdong Supreme Court handles the bankruptcy.

Mr Dai seemed to dismiss the notion that there had been any guarantees for the "legitimate registered" foreign debt. "The registration of foreign debt means that those capital inflows were allowed or permitted by the Chinese authority. It does not mean a guarantee from the Chinese authority of the registered foreign debt," he said.

Creditors would be protected "in accordance with the law," he said. "If all the registered legiti-



People's Bank of China governor Dai Xianglong told foreign bankers yesterday they would not receive priority treatment after the collapse of GITIC. Popperfoto

mate debts of GITIC were repaid, most of the domestic creditors, including foreign financial institutions, joint ventures, and state-owned enterprises, would not be repaid at all," said Mr Dai.

The problem of the so-called "ITICS" is widespread in China, though not on the same scale as GITIC. After peaking at about 1,000, Mr Dai said there were now 239 other ITICS, which between them had foreign borrowings of a further US\$8.1bn.

Green axes two Sears directors

PHILIP GREEN has axed two directors of Sears days after winning control of the struggling retailer, writes Nigel Cope. David Defty, the finance director, and Roger Groom, property director, will depart with a combined payoff of £1m.

Mr Defty, who had been interested in launching a management buyout of the company, receives a total of £728,000. This consists of £453,410 payment for termination of employment, a "loyalty bonus" of £220,000 and a discretionary bonus of £55,000. This is in addition to his annual salary of £220,000. Mr Defty joined Sears in June 1994 and was employed on a two-year contract.

Mr Groom receives a total of £318,368 made up of £288,368 severance pay plus a £50,000 payment to his pension fund. He had been with Sears since

February 1981 and was also on a two-year contract. Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman who initially rejected Mr Green's bid, is not eligible for compensation.

Mr Green has left the divisional directors in place. They are Derek Lovelock, who runs the clothing businesses such as Miss Selfridge, Adams and Wallis, and John Pearmain, who runs the Freemans mail-order operation.

The compensation details were included in the offer document relating to the recommended £548m offer for Sears launched by January Investments, a company fronted by Mr Green and backed by the Barclay brothers.

Mr Green is expected to take a close look at head office costs at Sears, but has yet to come to any decision.

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£100,000+	6.75%	6.50%	6.31%
£50,000+	6.70%	6.45%	6.27%
£25,000+	6.50%	6.25%	6.08%
£10,000+	6.10%	5.85%	5.70%
HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL GOLD			
£100,000+	6.40%	6.15%	5.98%
£50,000+	6.20%	5.95%	5.79%
£25,000+	6.15%	5.90%	5.75%
£10,000+	5.70%	5.45%	5.32%
£5,000+	5.15%	4.90%	4.79%
£500+	3.55%	3.30%	3.25%

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28th January 1999

IN BRIEF

Borders buys into Paperchase

BORDERS, the American bookstore group that opened its first UK branches last year, has bought 19.9 per cent of the Paperchase stationery chain for an undisclosed sum. Borders already owns the Books etc stores in Britain. Paperchase was a management buyout from WH Smith in 1996: it has 18 stores including a flagship site in Manchester.

Irish homes rise

NORTHERN IRELAND will top Greater London this year as the region with the fastest-rising house prices, according to regional predictions from economic consultants Standard & Poor's. Prices in Northern Ireland are set to rise by 7.6 per cent against a UK average of 4.3 per cent.

Boost for Oasis

OASIS STORES, the womenswear retailer, enjoyed a sales boost in the 25 weeks to 23 January, although it was against weak comparisons. December trading was "disappointing", with shoppers deferring buying until the January sales. This cut group margins by 1.5 points.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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REPUBLICAN PARTY

STANDARD TIME

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

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SPORT

Cricket: England's batting enigma has shown in recent matches that he remains an outstanding one-day player

Hick finds his form with a vengeance

IF GRAEME HICK owed England anything he has embarked on a programme of massive debt reduction. Three international hundreds in four matches and nine days, interrupted only by an unbeaten 66, represents the sort of repayment that tends to erase the details of a dodgy previous record of deposits.

This past fortnight in Australia he has looked the batsman he was always meant to be. It may never happen for him now in Tests but just as time seemed to be running out for him in the one-day game as well he has thrillingly confirmed his status.

Hick has been imperturbable and masterful. He has judged, nay determined, the pace of his and the team's innings and, towards the end of both, given the ball a clobbering. Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan, two great spinners, have been dispatched routinely for sixes. Nobody else in the Carlton & United series has dismissed them so brusquely.

"I'm feeling confident in both forms of the game and just enjoying it," he said the day after making his second century against Australia in consecutive matches. "I'm feeling as content about everything as I have ever done." This is as profound as Hick becomes in discussing his form.

HICK'S SERIES RECORD

10 Jan v Australia (Brisbane) ... 66
England won on tosser run rate
11 Jan v Sri Lanka (Brisbane) ... 100
England won by seven wickets
15 Jan v Australia (Melbourne) ... 66
England won by nine wickets
17 Jan v Australia (Sydney) ... 108
England won by seven wickets
19 Jan v Sri Lanka (Melbourne) ... not out 66
England won by seven wickets
24 Jan v Sri Lanka (Adelaide) ... not out 126
Sri Lanka won by one wicket
26 Jan v Australia (Adelaide) ... run out 109
Australia won by 16 runs
Total: 457, Average: 91.4

though he conceded his present run had turned him giddy. "I must be slightly ill or something," is as jocular as he becomes on the subject.

Enigma and Hick have long since been irrevocably attached. They are by now one of the nation's most formidable double acts. When Hick goes out to bat for England, enigma is never far behind. Last summer when he was selected again for the Test side it was his seventh recall. He made the right noises and was as bullish as he can have been on the eve of the return.

When it came to it against South Africa he failed. There were several mean and unimpressive comments about this, some of them unnecessarily in print. Since he was first picked for England accompanied by a sense of heady expectation (his partner before enigma) he has been targeted by the opposition fast bowlers, leading to the conclusion that he is not partial to the whiff of cordite beneath his nostrils.

Last summer the opposition again decided upon the wise policy that it would be best to remove him before he let them have both barrels in return. While this worked there was the suspicion that Hick was merely in a poor patch of form, nothing more. His century in the summer's last Test at The Oval was both timely and untimely. He made it shortly before the winter tour party was picked but as it was against a Sri Lanka bereft of

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY
in Adelaide

fast bowlers and before the pitch began to take Muralitharan's turn, it allowed the doubters to rerun the old insult that he was nothing but a flat track bully.

The selectors omitted Hick from the original tour party, but injury brought him into the squad and the team. It was another series short on fulfilment. The brash 68 he made at Perth in the second innings when he peppered Jason Gillespie was mere flattery. Not much followed. At the start of the triangular one-day series, England's opportunity not only to salvage something significant from Australia but to prepare for the World Cup, he was disappointing. He was trying to accumulate too much too soon, there was a hint of freneticism that did not become him. Then transformation. He batted at No 3 and altered his style.

"It's very difficult for a pinch hitter to go out and strike the ball immediately against the attack Australia had," he said. "They played their cricket much the same with proper batting with a more attacking approach. Some players aren't fussy where they bat, but I enjoy going in at three. I mentioned it and it was decided at the team meeting."

"I have made more of an effort to play myself in a bit more at the start rather than push it too early. But we've spoken as a team about who ever gets in from one to four must stay in. That's all I've done. I would have liked to have done better in the Tests but I was always confident."

Hick's sequence - his seven innings in the competition have been 8, 37, 3, 108, 66no, 126no, 109 - has made him the highest scorer in the tournament, taking him to within 66 of 3,000 one-day international runs, and taken his average above 40. It has probably also heightened his popularity among his colleagues - if that were possible, because he is held in high esteem in the dressing-room for reasons other than what his batting can bring to the party.

Alec Stewart, for one, obviously thinks as much of him as Captain Corelli did of his mandolin. "We all know what a world-class player he is. What's disappointing for him is that he's scored back to back hundreds and lost both games. But he's playing as well as I have seen him play internationally."

There was more besides his batting. "He's a top fellow. Among his team-mates and people he knows well he's very good company, he expresses himself well and has good ideas about the game. Saying that, he doesn't give too much away to people he doesn't know well." Which is perhaps as it should be but it would also be welcome if he did not carry this diffidence to the crease too often for England.

Hick has five Test hundreds and now five in limited overs, not to be sniffed at, but not what was in mind for him back in 1990 when he made his debut. Despite more than 50 Tests and more than 80 one-day internationals he has probably never been sure of his place in the team. He still isn't. When it was put to him that he was now established he said: "How long will that last?" But he was giving nothing else away.



Graham Hick's flamboyant stroke-play has belatedly confirmed a talent that England desperately need

Security high for visit of Pakistan

BY SURESH SESHADRI
in Madras

PAKISTAN START their first Test series in India for 12 years today facing an array of problems, ranging from successive series defeats to the lack of a settled opening pair. India, just back from losing a Test series in New Zealand, also have concerns over their openers for the two Tests, which will begin amid overwhelming security.

Tight safety measures are in place as a result of threats to disrupt the tour by Indian Hindu extremists, who called off their protest only hours before Pakistan arrived last week. In the past month members of the right-wing Shiv Sena Party have dug up the pitch at the New Delhi stadium and ransacked the Indian cricket authority's office in Bombay in an attempt to derail the series.

The match, which will be played in a fortified stadium with nearly 6,000 policemen, is expected to be watched by a noisy, partisan Indian crowd of 35,000.

Wasim Akram, recalled to captain Pakistan after they lost consecutive three-Test series at home to Australia last October and to Zimbabwe last month, said disruption threats were not a worry, giving his attention instead to problems at the top of the batting order. Aamir Sohail, the opener and former captain, was declared unfit for the tour and the other opener, Saeed Anwar, had a wretched start in India by being dismissed for nought and four in a three-day game at Gwalior.

Pakistan's problems were compounded by the newcomer, Wajahatullah Wasti, suffering a pair when he opened with Anwar in the match against India's A team in Gwalior.

At least the middle-order batsmen have swiftly found form, with Salim Malik hitting an aggressive century and Inzamam-ul-Haq twice narrowly missing three figures. Ijaz Ahmed, another batsman from the middle order who missed the game at Gwalior because of flu, had recovered sufficiently to practise on Tuesday.

Pakistan, with off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed in the squad, should be encouraged by reports that the pitch is expected to help slow bowlers. The Indian coach, Anshuman Gaekwad, yesterday said that the surface appeared hard and dry, with some initial moisture that might assist the seamers. "I think it will offer some bounce, too," he said.

India have omitted two all-rounders, Laxmi Ratan Shukla and Hrishikesh Kanitkar, to reduce their squad to 12, and must now opt for the off-spinner, Harbhajan Singh, or the left-arm spinner, Sunil Joshi. That will mean a Test debut on home ground for the left-handed opener Sadagopan Ramesh, who scored a stylish 56 for India A against the touring team.

The regular openers, Ajay Jadeja and Navjot Sidhu, were left out of India's squad, handing Ramesh and the relatively inexperienced Vangipurapu Laxman a testing assignment.

Akram said: "India lost the series in New Zealand and that's a good sign for us... but then India play well at home and we play well when we're away. So let's see what happens."

The last time Pakistan and India met on Indian soil, in 1987, the Pakistanis won the five-Test series 1-0. Since the two countries first met in Tests in 1952-53, as many as 33 of their 44 Tests have been drawn.

INDIA (from): Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), VVS Laxman, S Ramesh, S C Ganguly, S R Tendulkar, R S Dravid, M R Waugh, A Ramnath, J Srinath, R V C Prasad, H Singh, S Joshi. (Pakistan yet to be selected.)

Stewart called to Ranatunga hearing

ALEC STEWART the England captain, who may or may not consider himself fortunate to have avoided being charged by the match referee, today stands before him to give evidence in the Arjuna Ranatunga case, writes Stephen Brenkley. The hearing, twice postponed, was finally rearranged to take place at the WACA ground in Perth, less than 24 hours before England and Sri Lanka meet on the cricket pitch again.

The last game between the sides in the Carling & United series last Saturday was an extraordinary affair. The Sri Lankan off-spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, was no-balled for throwing by umpire Ross Emerson and the match degenerated into a thoroughly embittered affair.

Only the Sri Lankan captain was later charged, though in a routine twist for this saga it emerged shortly before the second adjournment that Emerson had been absent for eight

weeks from his full-time job, as an investigator with the Western Australia Ministry of Fair Trading, with a stress-related condition. He was immediately withdrawn from standing in tomorrow's game, when it was widely suspected he would call Muralitharan again. Sri Lanka are expected to use Emerson's condition in presenting Ranatunga's case today.

Graeme Hick, who was batting at the time of the call, the delay, the later argument and indeed throughout the rest of the innings, has understandably been called. Stewart's requested presence by the International Cricket Council competition referee, Peter van der Merwe, is harder to fathom. Nick Knight was the other batsman at the time of the no-ball.

Perhaps they simply want Stewart to elaborate on his description of his counterpart Hick, interviewed yesterday, could not elaborate on what Ranatunga said to him when he placed an arm round his shoulder but said the delays while the Sri Lanka captain scratched a mark in the ground near the stumps, to indicate where Emerson should stand, were frustrating.

"I don't think it was necessary, really," Hick said.

Lawyers will be present on both sides at today's tribunal. Sanath Jayasuriya will accompany Ranatunga. But also present will be the umpires, Tony McQuillan and Emerson. Do not rule out Ranatunga telling Emerson where he stands.

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Drugs are small beer to the so-what generation

THE OTHER day I fell into conversation with a group of young people who have a wide interest in sporting activity and think themselves typical of a rising generation.

I was bemusing, as we all should, the clamour of scandal that fills the sports pages and broadcasts these days, and makes television presentation of sport seem more fatuous than ever.

Immediately, I sensed the suppression of a yawn. You see, a truth, and a hard truth for some of us to swallow, is that the majority of younger folk are not deeply disturbed when evidence of chicanery in sport is set before them.

For example, the festering issue of who has been up to what in the



KEN JONES

Olympic movement was shrugging dismissed as inevitable in an era of rampant commercialism and therefore not worth bothering about.

No sports scandal sets off more indignant editorials than charges of

narcotic assistance, but modern cynicism dictates that very few track and field athletes are now held to be above suspicion. "What else can you expect when the rewards are so great, when winning can set a person up for life," one of my young friends stated.

Whenever something occurs to cast sport in an unfavourable light, somebody is quick to say, "The authorities should have anticipated this," or "past administrations would never have stood for it".

On some occasions that may be so, but if it's true, as it appears to be, that values have got screwed up, how did this come about?

Some of you may find it astonishing to discover that only 20 years

have passed since amateurism was still so vigorously upheld in athletics that the American high jumper Dwight Stones was ordered to hand back about \$33,000 won in a televised Superstars competition.

Shortly afterwards, Stone came as clean as he possibly could when disqualified in Poland for a technical infringement. "This is my living," he complained to the judges.

Nowadays, the urge to take up sport is often the urge to make a great deal of money. The tone of sport in the last decade of this millennium has been set by the elite, the richest games people who have sweated their way up to prodigious salaries are admirably interviewed by sycophants and receive the ad-

ing attention that was once reserved for movie stars.

If sport has acquired a sense of modern reality, it is no less an admission that all things are not better than they used to be.

Recently, I was discussing this with the great Welsh outside-half and esteemed broadcaster Cliff Morgan, who is unashamedly a rugby romantic and grateful for the good things that have happened to him.

Dwelling bleakly on the vast damage caused by rugby's blind plunge into professionalism, Morgan spoke about how rich he is from the game - not in cash but in memories. "I know things have to move on," he said, "but frankly I don't

think rugby was ever meant to be professional. Professionalism has taken away the game's soul."

The juxtaposition of the sports and financial sections in most newspapers is appropriate. Escalating salaries, share issues, ludicrously inflated transfer fees, takeovers, ever increasing prize-money, spiralling sponsorship.

When a highly dubious penalty kick enabled Chelsea to force a fourth-round FA Cup replay this week, as much was made of the heartening effect it would have on Oxford United's serious financial problems as the disappointment their players felt over just failing to achieve a major upset.

That is where football now

stands and a rocky stance it is with any number of clubs in desperate financial circumstances.

"Maybe so," one of my young friends countered, "but look at the benefits. Football has never been more popular and television brings us sports events live from all over the world."

A clue to sports future lies, I believe, in the growing and perhaps irreversible conviction of the young that most things are acceptable as long as they don't dampen the lust for entertainment.

Bearing that in mind it is easy to conjure up - hell, it's impossible not to imagine - what an ugly face sport will present to the world of tomorrow.

Cullinan out for handling the ball

THE SOUTH African opener Daryll Cullinan became only the second player in one-day international cricket to be given out "handled the ball" during the third match of the one-day series against the West Indies in Durban yesterday.

The hosts made 274 for 9 in their 50 overs after winning the toss at Kingsmead, with half-centuries from Lance Klusener and their captain, Hansie Cronje.

Cullinan made 46 before playing a ball from the left-arm slow bowler Keith Arthurton bounced straight up but as it came down Cullinan took his right hand off the bat and caught it.

Although it did not seem likely that the ball would pose any danger to the stumps, the West Indies captain, Brian Lara, appealed and Cullinan was given out by umpire David Orchard.

Orchard used Law 33, which states a batsman shall be given out on appeal "if he wilfully touches the ball while in play with the hand not holding the bat unless he does so with the consent of the opposite side".

It is one of the game's most unusual forms of dismissal and the only previous batsman to fall in the same way in a limited-overs international was Mohinder Amarnath of India, in a match against Australia in 1986.

The dismissal was a welcome piece of luck to a demoralised side who are struggling to repair their shattered reputation after a 5-0 Test series defeat in South Africa, the first in their history. At the moment the one-day series is intriguingly poised at 1-1 and a victory in this match might provide a springboard for an eventual success in the series.

With morale at an all-time low and criticism in the Caribbean at an all-time high it cannot come one moment too soon.

On a hard pitch South Africa batted solidly as the West Indies bowlers laboured in hot weather. Klusener sent in as a pinch-hitter at number three, made 64 off 74 balls while Cron-

CRICKET

By Lawrence Prescott in Durban

South Africa 274 for 9 v West Indies

je was in sparkling form, hitting 58 off 42 deliveries with three fours and three sixes.

Off-spinner Carl Hooper took four wickets for 52 runs but Curtly Ambrose was the most impressive bowler, taking two for 31.

THIRD ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL
South Africa won toss

D J Cullinan	handled the ball	46
H H Gibbs	c McLennan b Hooper	29
L Klusener	c Lara b Hooper	58
J H Kallis	b Hooper	24
W J Cronje	c King b Ambrose	58
J N Rhodes	c Murray b Arthurton	11
D M Benkenstein	c Jacobs b Ambrose	10
M V Boucher	c Jacobs b Hooper	5
A J Hall	not out	5
P L Symcox	run out (Jacobs)	13
Bairstow	(b) 3rd 2w	12
Total (for 9, 50 overs)		274

Did not bat: S Elworthy.
Fall: 1-49, 2-119, 3-155, 4-183, 5-221, 6-231, 7-232, 8-261, 9-274.
Bowling: Ambrose 10-1-31-2; King 7-0-40-0; Hooper 10-0-52-4; Arthurton 10-0-51-1 (2nb, 1w); McLennan 5-0-41-0; Cronje 8-0-59-0.

WES: INDIAN: S Chanderpaul; J R Murray; B C Lara; C L Hooper; K L I Arthurton; K F Semple; R D Jacobs; N A M M; N C McDermott; C E L Ambrose; R D King.

Tribal justice helped to catch a man suspected of robbing the wife of the South African off-spinner, Pat Symcox, it emerged yesterday.

Liz Symcox was mugged at knife-point on a beach at Hibberdene, 60 kilometres south of Durban, last week.

The matter was reported to the police but yesterday Symcox and his wife were informed by a Zulu chief, Bhokizwe Luthuli, that the man suspected of committing the crime had been apprehended and handed over to the authorities.

Luthuli said that the police had requested assistance in the case from his tribal police, who traced the suspect a day after the robbery.

"Our tribal police regularly help the authorities in matters like this," Luthuli said, while watching the match between South Africa and the West Indies in Durban yesterday.

"It's our way of helping to stamp out crime in South Africa."

Tourists hit by Flower power

THE ZIMBABWEAN Test brothers Grant and Andy Flower both hit centuries for the Zimbabwe Cricket Union President's XI against England A, on a disappointing second day of the tourists' opening match yesterday.

The Flowers took it in turns to punish the England bowlers and by the end of the day had built up a score of 382 for 5 for the home side.

England A had hoped the match would be dominated by their spin attack, but Grant Flower and Murray Goodwin, resuming on 40 for 1 in reply to England's first-innings score of 267, took advantage of some erratic English seam bowling.

It was not until Darren Thomas was introduced that England made a breakthrough.

Thomas dropped his second ball short and Goodwin attempted the hook, only for Matti Windward to hold on to a spectacular catch. Andy Flower then joined his brother at the crease and the partnership assumed a relentless momentum.

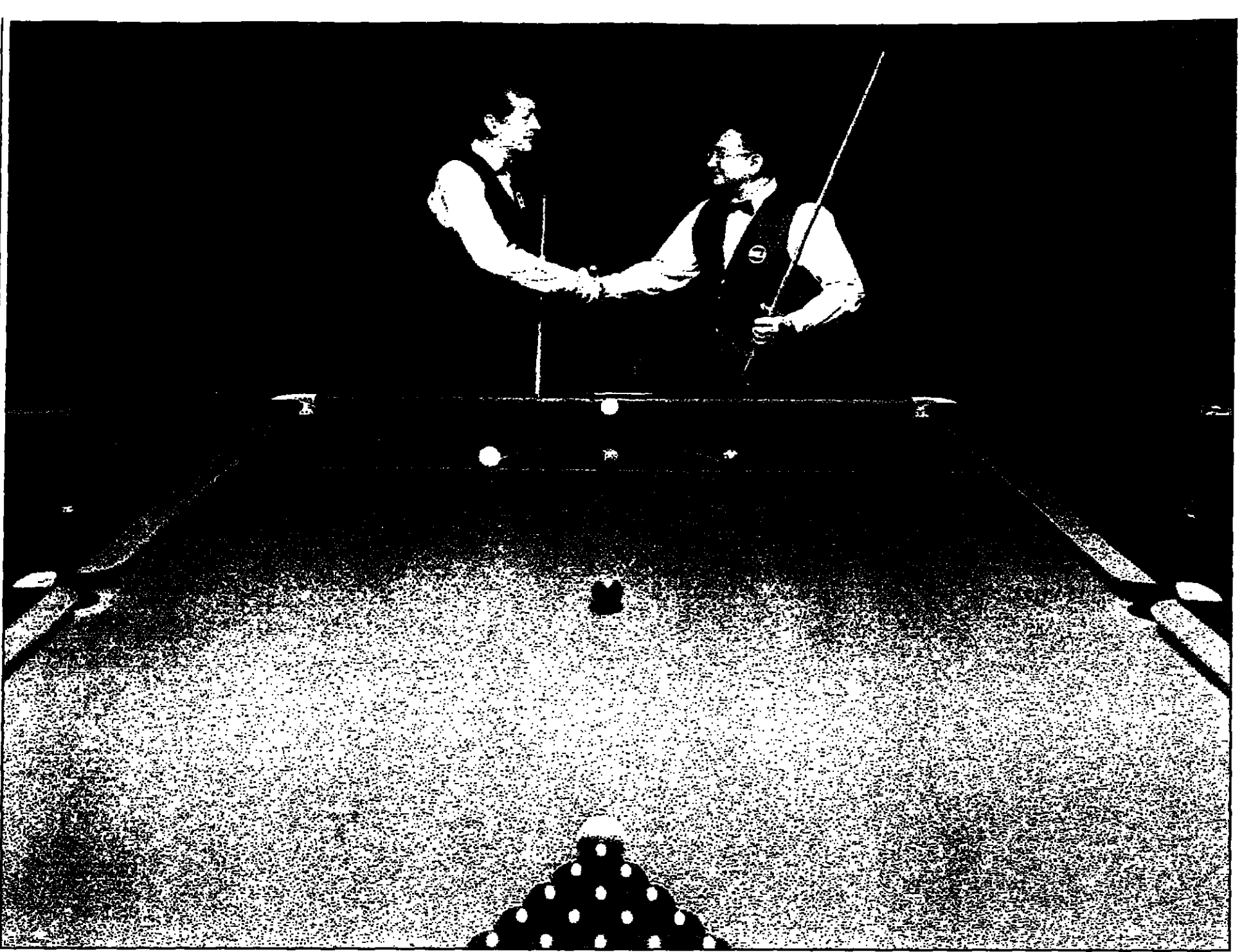
Grant Flower reached 130 before playing out his stumps after a short ball from Thomas.

Cork has agreed to the meeting, but has no intention of backing down. "My position is unchanged from what it was in October," he said. "Unless I am granted the authority other captains have been given, and which I was promised, and unless the two people I believe have undermined my position are removed from influence, I will seek to leave."

Cork had been told to decide by yesterday whether he wanted to continue as captain. But the ultimatum was withdrawn and committee member Les Elliott will now meet Cork in an attempt to resolve the matter.

Cork last night repeated his threat to leave Derbyshire, despite the county's committee backing down from its confrontation with him.

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Old boys' reunion: Steve Davis and Joe Johnson shake hands before yesterday's match at the Cardiff International Arena

Old rivalry in young man's game

IT IS funny how stress can play tricks with the mind and, as Paul Hunter and Fergal O'Brien waited to play their second round match in the Welsh Open yesterday, their past flashed before their eyes.

Two middle-aged men were also fidgeting nervously in the shadows of the Cardiff International Arena and, if the two twenty-something tigers had thought "Ah, they're letting the old folks on the tables for a treat", you could have forgiven them.

The strange thing about snooker is that, for a sport which largely involves sitting around with the not exacting alternative of sedately hitting balls round a table, it has become almost exclusively a profession for the young.

In the 1970s, when Fred Davis could reach a world championship semi-finals at the age of 64, anyone looking for an appropriate sponsor would have lit up at the thought of Sanatogen, now with players winning titles almost before they are out of nappies there would be misgivings about anything more adult than Tizer.

But not for the two players on table two yesterday. Steve Davis and Joe Johnson are not in the vanguard of snooker's youth movement, indeed they were the men Hunter, 20, is the Welsh champion while O'Brien, 23, is ranked 17th in the world and rising and as you would expect the crowds, such as they were at 10am, flocked to their match.

They did what? The spectators barely gave the younger men a glance as they took their vantage points for Johnson and Davis. They might be classed as dinosaurs but then Jurassic Park did better at the box office than any brat pack movie.

Not that anyone would describe Davis as looking much different from 1986. There may be a few more wrinkles on snooker's Mr Stoneface but they were not visible from the gallery and his frame is as straight as his cue. Johnson, however, shows signs of middle age and when he wandered, bespectacled and blinking into the arena with a brown tweed over his hip and tucker he gave a good impression of an eccentric professor who had put on the wrong jacket for a posh night out.

Then again, when you are having a mini-renaissance among rivals who are less peers than grandchildren-like you are entitled to appear studious and Johnson, who has had several heart attacks, is happy to be able to play at all never mind at 55th in the world.

In a sense he belongs to an era even earlier than Davis, who won the world title at 23, five years before Johnson's year, but who was the harbinger of the youth revolution that is still fermenting.

Johnson was nearly 30 before he turned pro, an age when players now are looking for their slippers and an early retirement, and he would have remained amateur if it had not been for the weather on the M62. En route to the English Amateur Championships from his home in Yorkshire his car was stopped by snow and, defaulted from the tournament and denied another chance at the world amateur, he went into the moneyed ranks.

"I was happy as I was," he said. "I was No 1 amateur in the world. I was captain of the England team, been in the final of the world amateur. I was king of the table, the last thing I wanted to do was become just another pro. I was a little bit old any way."

There is no "bit" about it now because Johnson is Methuselah-like in this teenage land and like anyone of his seniority he is entitled to take his time. The four matches around them had long since finished and the afternoon session had started before Davis prevailed 5-3 in a three-hour-33-minute meander down memory lane.

The turning point came at 3-3 when Johnson led 46-11. "I thought I was going to win, but he played some fantastic snooker and I don't think I got another look at a ball. It was as if Steve said: 'I refuse to lose'."

Had his mind wandered to previous meetings? "I remember being very relaxed in the world final," he replied, "it was more like playing in the local club. Once you get the prize-money and the ranking points the pressure is off you. In some ways it was more nerve-racking today."

Davis, too, was aware of precedent. "Joe belongs to an era which I'm supposed to have dominated so if I hadn't won it would have been regarded as total failure," he said. "People forget how good Joe was and so I tend to prefer playing young players rather than people from the Eighties."

Davis will get his wish. Yesterday's match was a nostalgic reprise in an unstoppable march towards younger and younger champions.

Snooker, now the province of teenage talent, makes way for Steve Davis and Joe Johnson, both world champions of yesteryear. By Guy Hodgson

anything more adult than Tizer. But not for the two players on table two yesterday. Steve Davis and Joe Johnson are not in the vanguard of snooker's youth movement, indeed they were the men Hunter, 20, is the Welsh champion while O'Brien, 23, is ranked 17th in the world and rising and as you would expect the crowds, such as they were at 10am, flocked to their match.

They did what? The spectators barely gave the younger men a glance as they took their vantage points for Johnson and Davis. They might be classed as dinosaurs but then Jurassic Park did better at the box office than any brat pack movie.

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Walker's supplement denial

DOUG WALKER'S legal representative yesterday denied reports the athlete had incurred an adverse doping result by taking a supplement known as 19-NOR. The 25-year-old Scot is waiting for confirmation that he faces a doping charge after an out-of-competition sample taken last month showed up traces of what is claimed to be the banned steroid, nandrolone.

Walker, who won the European 200 metres title last season, vehemently denies that he has taken any banned substances, but said that he had taken "another substance not on the banned list" which he said, "could give the same reading" as a trace - or metabolite - of nandrolone.

Walker endorses three products in the 1998-1999 catalogue for Maximuscle, which produces a range of supplements including 19-NOR, which manufacturers accept can produce traces in doping tests which can falsely indicate a use of nandrolone. However, Maximuscle's director of research, Zef Eisenberg, said yesterday that any of his company's products which formed a potential risk to any competitor working to the International Olympic Committee's list of banned substances was clearly labelled. He said: "We warn IOC athletes not to take certain products. You would have to be blind or stupid not to see the warnings."

Nick Bittel, Walker's legal representative, yesterday dismissed claims that 19-NOR might be involved in his client's case.

He said: "I find these claims incredible. Doug Walker has never knowingly taken any banned substance. Even if he had taken it, 19-NOR is only now being added to the (IOC's) list of banned substances." The supplement was not on the list when Walker was tested.

Bittel, meanwhile, has warned UK Athletics, the sport's new governing body that they can expect a lengthy battle if they do not clear Walker of the charges.

The UK Athletics chief executive, David Moorcroft, has promised to give Walker a full and fair hearing before action is taken.

Bittel said: "It is wrong to be perjorative against UK Athletics, but it has not yet got a system in place and no rules (for drugs cases) so of course I am wary."

"He is innocent. I have never come across a case that is as clear to me."

When asked if he thought there would be a speedy solution to the Walker case, Bittel said: "That depends on what attitude the athletics authorities take. If they say he is guilty this one will drag on for a considerable time and be very damaging to athletics and that is the last thing anyone wants. The simple solution is he [Walker] should be exonerated."

Speculation Walker might have taken other supplements containing unmarked substances which broke IOC rules is likely to go on. But one line of inquiry, that he may have taken Andro - or androsterone - the supplement favoured by the US baseball player Mark McGwire, is unlikely to provide a solution, as androsterone was added to the IOC banned list in January 1998.

Murray's last Leeds season

LEEDS, STRONGLY fancied to win Super League this season, have been dealt a heavy blow before the campaign starts with the news that it will be Graham Murray's last.

Murray, a success since arriving as coach at Headingley a year ago, is to return to his native Australia at the end of his two-year contract to coach North Sydney in 2000.

"It was a tough decision to make for me and my family," Murray said. "We are really enjoying ourselves in Leeds and the club is on the threshold of a very successful period."

"However, I came for two years and I always hoped to return to coach in the new national competition in Australia. The opportunity has probably come a little sooner than I expected, but it is one I have to take."

Murray made his name with Illawarra, before coaching the Hunter Mariners to the final of the World Club Championship during their single year of existence. Norths, relocating this year from Sydney to the Central Coast of New South Wales, have head-hunted him as the successor to Peter Lewis, who is retiring after this season.

"We are naturally disappointed, because Graham has done a splendid job so far and we hoped he would have a long career with us," said Leeds' chief executive, Gary Hetherington.

Murray's arrival last year, after Dean Bell moved to a youth development role, brought Leeds their best season for decades. A long unbeaten run saw them lead Super League for months and they reached the competition's inaugural Grand Final before being narrowly beaten by Wigan.

Leeds are popular favourites to go one better this time and both Murray and Hetherington stressed that it would be business as usual until Murray's departure in October.

Leeds must now turn their minds to the question of a successor, although Hetherington said that there would be no appointment until the end of the season. A limited range of British contenders would be headed by Sheffield's John Kear, but it would be no surprise if the club looked to the southern hemisphere again.

The former Leeds centre, Kevin Iro, has left for Britain to join his new club, St Helens after the release from hospital of his daughter, injured in a fall at home. However, Iro will not arrive in time to be involved in Saints' friendly against Warrington tomorrow night.

Hamed revives Ingle title fight

NASEEM HAMED is to make the next defence of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title against Paul Ingle on 10 April. Ingle's promoter, Frank Maloney, yesterday confirmed he was in "final and very deep negotiations" with the Hamed camp and the fight at Manchester's MEN Arena will be announced next week.

Ingle said yesterday: "Everybody will be expecting me to lose but I am going to win. Hamed is the champion and has got everything to lose. I'm hungry for the fight but I don't think he will be as hungry. He is getting bored with it all."

It marks an astonishing U-turn for Ingle, who earlier this month turned down offers of two world title fights - one against Hamed - to concentrate on a European title defence against Steve Robinson. But since then Hamed's camp have made a vastly improved offer, believed to be over £300,000.

Maloney added: "When Hamed does fight Ingle, Hamed is getting knocked out."

Crawford Ashley's triple title defence against Clinton Woods, scheduled for Halifax on 6 February, is off. Ashley, who was to have defended his European, British and Commonwealth light-heavyweight titles, has a virus and the fight has been rescheduled for 13 March.

It is the second blow to the show after Ashley's original opponent, Henry Wharton, announced his retirement. However, the promotion still goes ahead, with Patrick Mullings' British super-bantamweight title fight against Scot Brian Carr now topping the bill.

THE INDEPENDENT
winning races

Seles sets her sights on Hingis

BY DERRICK WHITE
in Melbourne

MONICA SELES kept her remarkable unbeaten Australian Open record intact as she swept into the semi-finals here yesterday. Seles won nine of the last 10 games to knock out another former world No 1, Steffi Graf, and now plays the defending champion, Martina Hingis, in today's semi-finals. Hingis outplayed the French seventh seed, Mary Pierce, 6-3, 6-1.

Tommy Haas, attempting to become only the fourth unseeded player to win a Grand Slam tournament since 1984, disposed of the American Vince Spadea in straight sets. The 20-year-old German now plays Yevgeny Kafelnikov for a place in Sunday's final.

The Russian 10th seed and 1996 French Open champion brushed past the American 15th seed, Todd Martin, 6-2, 7-6, 6-2. The 24-year-old said he would never have a better chance to win another Grand Slam. "It is difficult to realise that none of the seeded players are left in the tournament and I am the only one to have won a Grand Slam, so that will help me definitely," Kafelnikov said.

Three times here before I have been beaten by the eventual champion: Pete Sampras in 1994, Andre Agassi in '95 and Boris Becker in '96.

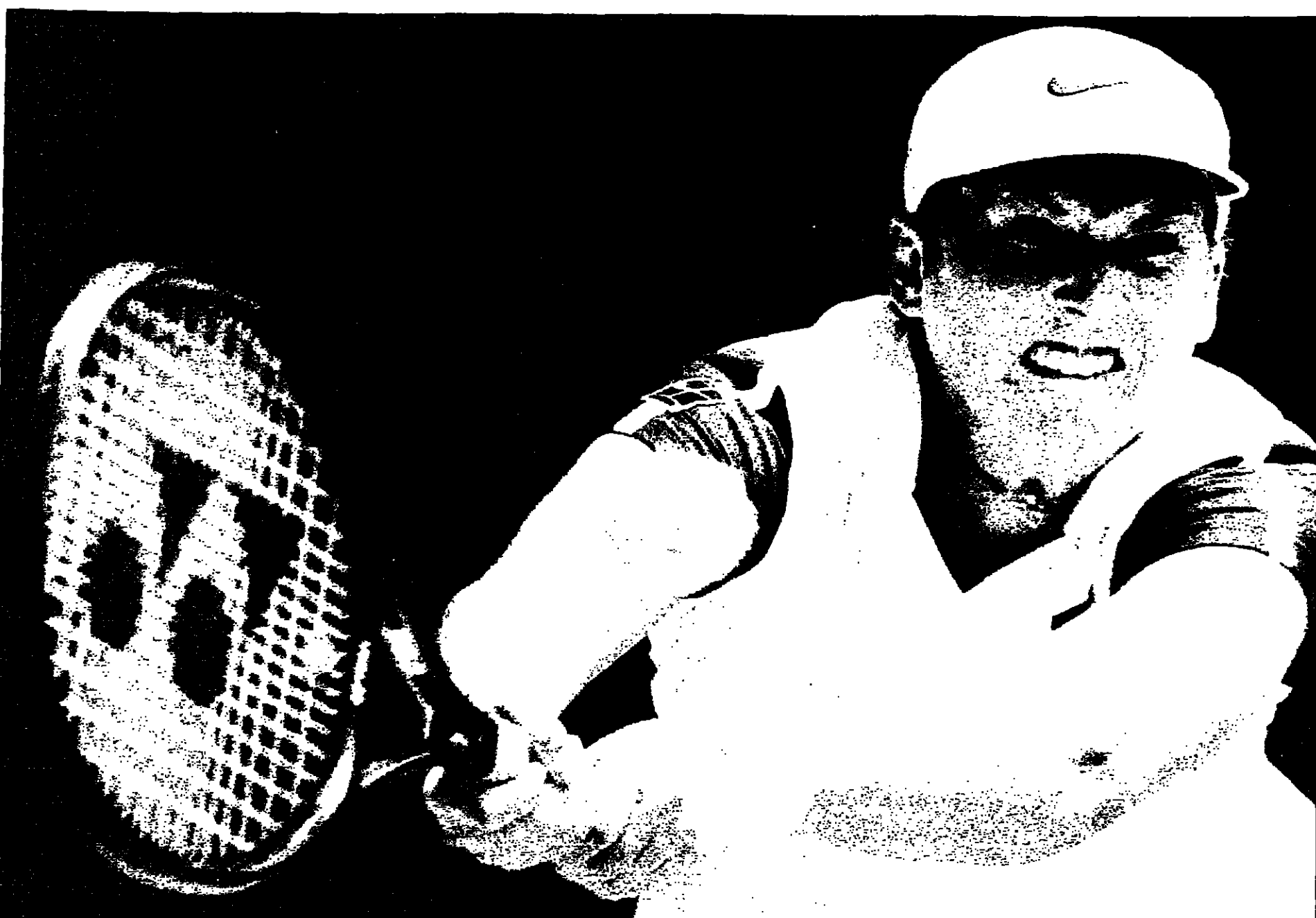
The 29-year-old Graf, winner of 21 Grand Slam singles titles, began like an express train but was quickly derailed. From serving for the first set at 5-4 she crashed out 7-5, 6-1. Only her pride stood in the way of only her third love set in the past 15 years, and afterwards Seles was harsh in her assessment.

"Steffi's not the best player in the world now," she said when asked if she ranked the match alongside their previous Grand Slam confrontations.

"I can't think of having had such a lapse," said Graf, a four-times Open winner, after dropping eight games in succession. "I just got tired and I couldn't really serve any more," Graf added. "I thought so much about it in the second set that I couldn't put a ball in."

"I got tired and nervous but I didn't know why I couldn't change it around. I told myself to loosen up. I usually can but today I didn't find a way to."

"At 5-4 I was dictating the



Monica Seles grimaces as she reaches for a ball in her Australian Open rout of Steffi Graf in Melbourne yesterday. Seles won nine of the last 10 games

points and I thought I was playing fine," said the 10th-seeded Graf, whose sliced backhand was destroyed by Seles.

"I didn't really go into this tournament for some reason with enough confidence. I don't know why that was."

Graf still holds a 9-5 lead over Seles in meetings and on the previous occasion they met - at the Chase Championships in New York last November - Graf fought back from a first-set loss to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. The win was Seles' first over Graf since she beat her in the 1993 Australian Open final. Seles won on her debut at Melbourne in 1991, then won the title in 1992 and 1993 before missing the 1994 and 1995 championships while she was recovering after being stabbed by a mentally disturbed fan at a tournament in Hamburg.

Hingis, who has beaten her in six of their eight matches, including two of three at Grand Slam level, said after beating Pierce she was eager to have a crack at Seles, who extended her unbeaten record in Australia to 33 matches.

Hingis, the No 2 seed, took

76 minutes to beat Pierce, the 1995 champion, who went down to her third successive defeat to Hingis at Melbourne Park. Hingis and Pierce have now won five matches each, but Pierce's first three wins came when the Swiss was only 14 years old. "I was attacking her serve very well and had some great returns on the line," Hingis said. "She was standing so far off the middle I had open lines and I went for them."

Pierce said she had decided to stand wide on the court to try to create a sharper angle for

her shots. She said unforced errors - 26 to Hingis's 17 - were the main reason for her defeat, but she was also troubled by a pulled stomach muscle and a head cold.

"To beat her you have to be at the top of your game 100 per cent, which I wasn't," Pierce said. "But I've got to give Martina credit. She hit some amazing shots."

Venus Williams won no sympathy yesterday from the chief executive of the women's game, who dismissed her complaints about being deducted a

point when her hair beads flew off.

Williams complained after she was warned and then docked a crucial point, resulting in a break of serve in the second set, when some of the beads she wears in her hair shook loose to land 6-4, 6-0 quarter-final defeat to Lindsay Davenport.

Williams refused to shake hands with the umpire, Denis Oberberg, at the end of the match, saying she had never been treated in such a way before.

The WTA chief executive, Bart McGuire, said the rule was in place long before the Williams sisters came on the scene and insisted that it had to be adhered to.

"Last night was the first time that it's come up," he said. "It is not strictly the beard rule, it's applicable to any hindrance on the court."

Rule 1, Section 3 states that when a player has created an involuntary hindrance, the first time a let should be called and the player told that thereafter it would be considered deliberate.

Korda's defeat in the third round at Melbourne Park last Saturday, coupled with an earlier failure to make a successful defence of an ATP Tour title he won in Qatar, means that his ranking will fall from No 13 to around No 75.

Brian Tabin, the president of the ITF, is scheduled to attend an anti-doping conference organised by the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland next week and will cast tennis's vote in support of a minimum two-year suspension for those found guilty of class-one drug abuse.

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Korda to challenge ITF in the courts

BY JOHN ROBERTS

PETR KORDA'S lawyers go to the High Court in London today in an attempt to stop the International Tennis Federation pursuing its quest to overturn a ruling by its own independent appeals committee, which decided not to ban the former Australian Open champion for a positive drugs test at Wimbledon last summer.

Korda is challenging the ITF's right to go to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne after completing its own anti-drugs procedure against him. On 21 December the ITF appeals panel fined Korda his Wimbledon prize-money (£50,000) and deducted 199 world ranking points, but did not impose a statutory one-year suspension, citing "exceptional circumstances". Korda, who tested positive after losing to Britain's Tim Henman in the Wimbledon quarter-finals, said he did not know how the steroid nandrolone found its way into his system.

Although the ITF inserted the clause covering exceptional circumstances at the suggestion of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, its intention was to put the burden of proof on the athlete to show how a banned substance got into his body. In Korda's case, the ITF believes the appeals committee misapplied the regulations.

The failure to ban Korda upset many of his fellow players, some of whom voiced their objection to the leniency of the ruling when the 31-year-old from the Czech Republic went to Melbourne to defend his Australian Open title.

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HUNTINGDON

HYPERION
1.20 MISTY CLASS (asp) 1.50 King Pin (nb)
2.20 Optimistic Chris 2.50 Ginger Fox 3.20
Tonnoco 3.50 Buckland Lad 4.20 Devil's Advocate

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places)
■ Right hand, level course. Rain in 200yds.
■ Course is at junction of A1 and A204. Station (service from London, King's Cross) 1m. Admission: Members £3; Paddock £10. OAP members of Diamond Club, and Students, half-price.
■ CARR PARK: Club £25; members £10.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: C. Bailey 18-57 (207%), G. Hubbard 18-77 (208%), Mrs M. Revely 14-37 (207%), J. Gifford 14-75 (207%), M. Revely 14-37 (207%), J. Gifford 14-75 (207%), M. Revely 14-37 (207%), J. Gifford 14-75 (207%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R. Dwyer 21-51 (25%), M. A. Pegg 21-51 (25%), M. A. Pegg 21-51 (25%), M. A. Pegg 21-51 (25%).
■ FAVORITES: 2.20-2.50 (44.2%).
■ BLUNDERED FIRST TIME: Mrs A. Revely 12-30, J. Gifford 14-75, M. Revely 14-37, M. A. Pegg 21-51, M. A. Pegg 21-51, M. A. Pegg 21-51, M. A. Pegg 21-51.
■ 150-160: 1.20-1.50, 2.20-2.50, 3.20-3.50, 4.20-4.50, 5.20-5.50, 6.20-6.50, 7.20-7.50, 8.20-8.50, 9.20-9.50, 10.20-10.50, 11.20-11.50, 12.20-12.50, 13.20-13.50, 14.20-14.50, 15.20-15.50, 16.20-16.50, 17.20-17.50, 18.20-18.50, 19.20-19.50, 20.20-20.50, 21.20-21.50, 22.20-22.50, 23.20-23.50, 24.20-24.50, 25.20-25.50, 26.20-26.50, 27.20-27.50, 28.20-28.50, 29.20-29.50, 30.20-30.50, 31.20-31.50, 32.20-32.50, 33.20-33.50, 34.20-34.50, 35.20-35.50, 36.20-36.50, 37.20-37.50, 38.20-38.50, 39.20-39.50, 40.20-40.50, 41.20-41.50, 42.20-42.50, 43.20-43.50, 44.20-44.50, 45.20-45.50, 46.20-46.50, 47.20-47.50, 48.20-48.50, 49.20-49.50, 50.20-50.50, 51.20-51.50, 52.20-52.50, 53.20-53.50, 54.20-54.50, 55.20-55.50, 56.20-56.50, 57.20-57.50, 58.20-58.50, 59.20-59.50, 60.20-60.50, 61.20-61.50, 62.20-62.50, 63.20-63.50, 64.20-64.50, 65.20-65.50, 66.20-66.50, 67.20-67.50, 68.20-68.50, 69.20-69.50, 70.20-70.50, 71.20-71.50, 72.20-72.50, 73.20-73.50, 74.20-74.50, 75.20-75.50, 76.20-76.50, 77.20-77.50, 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England dropped from world's top 10

A REFORM of Fifa's world rankings yesterday saw a marked improvement for the home nations - aside from England, who dropped out of the top 10.

Football's world governing body has revised the way the ranking points are awarded with results in the past eight rather than six years now taken into account.

Fifa has also responded to criticism that teams have risen up the list too quickly through new weighting factors for matches.

That means competitive matches are now worth substantially more points than

BY MARK BRADLEY

friendlies, while regional strength factors are also now part of the equation.

The end result for England is a dip of two places since December from ninth to 11th as Spain and the Netherlands benefit from the changes. But for Scotland there is a surge of 12 places from 38th to 26th, likewise the Republic of Ireland, up to 44th.

The improvements are more dramatic still further down the list with Northern Ireland climbing 19 places from just a month ago to 67th.

And there was a boost for Bobby Gould, whose Welsh team have been embarrassed by past lists, up 23 places to the relative respectability of 74th.

However, the changes have left the two leading nations undisturbed, with Brazil top ahead of World Cup holders France in second, with Croatia and Italy joint third.

Organisers of England's World Cup 2006 campaign have welcomed new guidelines to be issued by Fifa to all bidding countries to avoid an Olympic-style bribery scandal.

The FA maintained that there had never been any ques-

tion that their own £10m campaign had overstepped even the spirit of the impending guidelines in the past. The FA's acting executive director, David Davies, revealed that Fifa's president, Sepp Blatter, confirmed that to him and the interim FA chairman, Geoff Thompson, during a meeting in Zurich yesterday.

Davies has been angered by one report which intimated that the FA had been warned to cut down on its supposedly lavish worldwide campaigning efforts from now on.

He said: "We discussed the guidelines that were approved by Fifa's executive committee last May, final versions of which are to be sent to all bidding countries next week.

"We welcome them and firmly believe that we have been operating in the spirit of those guidelines up to this point.

"We specifically asked Mr Blatter whether Fifa had any concerns over the activities of any of the bidding countries and he told us on two separate occasions that they did not.

"It was a very positive and friendly meeting."

The Fifa guidelines include a £100 limit on the value of any gifts offered by a bidding coun-

try to any of the 24 members of the Fifa executive who will decide on the 2006 World Cup venue next year.

They were reportedly drawn up after complaints about the amount of hospitality offered by Japan and South Korea, hosts of the 2002 World Cup, and are especially timely in the wake of the Olympic bidding row.

European football's governing body, Uefa, fired another broadside in the direction of Fifa yesterday, denouncing Sepp Blatter's plans to hold the World Cup every two years.

After formally rejecting the proposal on Tuesday at an ex-

ecutive committee meeting in Cape Town before South Africa's Meridian Cup youth tournament, Uefa yesterday said that it was unfortunate that Blatter had first revealed details of his proposals in the media.

"The way the subject was introduced was not fortunate. It put members of the Fifa executive committee in an embarrassing situation," said Uefa's general secretary, Gerhard Aigner.

The Uefa committee meeting unanimously agreed that the proposal "had no positive elements for European football nor for the World Cup".

"It is obvious that it would serve only to devalue the World Cup," Aigner said.

Uefa and its African counterparts will discuss the Blatter plan today but both said it would be an informal meeting and no statement would be made.

"We will be talking to each other about our position on this project but we really don't know much about it because much of it is just speculation," said Aigner.

FIFA RANKINGS: 1 Brazil 829pts; 2 France 787; 3 Croatia and Italy 745; 4 Germany 742; 5 Argentina 733; 7 Czech Republic 726; 8 Netherlands 720; 9 Spain 703; 10 Romania 698. Others: 11 England 697pts; 26 Scotland 602; 44 Republic of Ireland 535; 67 Northern Ireland 467; 74 Wales 446.

Gray keen to catch the Foxes

IF THE tailors of Leicester are expecting a rush of eager Foxes ready to be measured up for any footballer's favoured apparel - the Wembley suit - then the Sunderland defender Michael Gray is warning them not to reach for the tape measures and pattern books just yet.

Leicester took a sizeable stride towards the famous old arena with their 2-1 Worthington Cup semi-final first-leg win at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday night, but Gavin McCann's late goal provided the First Division side with a measure of optimism.

And although Gray realises that Sunderland have a monumental task of overcoming the deficit when they visit Filbert Street on 17 February, he is adamant that the tie is far from over. "That goal has kept us in the game," he reasoned. "They came and played with five at the back and the forwards squeezed the full-backs when we had the ball. Maybe sometimes we rushed things a little bit, but when we got the ball down and passed it around, we looked the better side.

"They're very solid at the back and very hard to break down. They've done well in the Premiership this year, and I don't know how many clean sheets they've kept, but I can't see many goals going past them. They had a bit of a hiccup against Manchester United, and that's what we've got to do - break down the big lads at the back.

"Apart from that, they've got very good midfielders and Emile Heskey and Tony Cottee up front who can score goals. But the onus is on them. They're the home side and they got to bring the game to us. That's where we might find the gaps."

The defeat by Leicester was Sunderland's second by Premiership opposition in four days, following their 1-0 FA Cup reverse at Blackburn. Gray admitted that to come so close in both games had been both frustrating and encouraging. "The lads were very disappointed," he said. "That just shows how far we've come in the last three or four years since the manager's been here.

"In the past if we'd gone 1-0 or even 2-0 down, the lads might have thought we were out of the Cup. But we battled on and got the goal back and we're still in with a chance.

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

"Cup games are completely different from the Premiership. But we haven't been overawed by the teams we've played. If anything, we've outplayed them."

"We started very well in both games, pushing forward looking for goals. If we had got an early goal in one of the games, we could have gone on to score a lot more."

Sunderland return to First Division action on Saturday with a trip to Watford, and with promotion to the top flight the priority, they will have little trouble concentrating their minds on the immediate task.

Meanwhile, Leicester's Worthington Cup hero, Tony Cottee, has spelled out his determination to end a 16-year wait to win his first proper silverware in football. Only Ian Wright among current Premier League strikers has managed more League goals than Cottee's tally of 198, and in all competitions he has a career haul of 261.

However, the only medal the Londoner possesses is a League Cup going from an unhappy spell in Malaysia two years ago. The 33-year-old Cottee's indifference to that success is such that the medal remains unpacked in the loft of his house. But it will be a different story if he helps the Foxes to complete their second League Cup triumph in three seasons.

Cottee's two goals against Sunderland means Martin O'Neill's side are in the stronger position for the second leg of the semi-final, despite Gray's confident assertions.

Cottee admitted: "My target is not simply to get back to Wembley, but to get that winner's medal. The fact I haven't got one in 16 years really annoys me. I got a medal in Malaysia, but that doesn't really count. The highest I've finished in the League was third with West Ham, and I lost three finals at Wembley with Everton.

"My scoring record throughout my career has been quite good and I keep setting myself new targets in that direction to help keep me going.

"But if at the end of it all I've got no medals it will take some of the edge off my own personal achievements. There's not much in my career that I regret, but that would be one thing."



Niall Quinn celebrates the goal that gave Sunderland hope in their Worthington Cup semi-final first leg against Leicester City at the Stadium of Light

Allsport

Charlton attack whingers

THE CHAIRMAN of Charlton Athletic plc, Richard Murray, has told the club's biggest supporters that if they are worried about fixture congestion they should leave the Premier League and play permanently in Europe. Otherwise, he believes, they should use their profits to employ bigger squads and fulfil all their commitments.

At a meeting of club chairman today, called to discuss fixture congestion, Manchester United and Arsenal are again expected to press for a reduction of the Premier League from 20 to 18 clubs, for which they need a two-thirds majority. A United spokesman said yesterday: "I couldn't confirm exactly what we'll be saying, but we have supported a reduction for some time."

The new Champions' League format for next season means that any of the three

BY STEVE TONGUE

English clubs competing could play 17 matches - 19 in the case of the team finishing third in the League. Any of the three teams in the revamped Uefa Cup who reached the final would play 13 games. To avoid possible fixture problems, the FA Cup committee have already considered dispensing with replays.

However, Murray believes that is irrelevant to most clubs. He said yesterday: "Speaking for the smaller clubs, our only fixture problem is deciding whether we play on Tuesday or Wednesday. Some of us haven't played for a fortnight. Should we really be changing the face of British football because Manchester United are in Europe a lot?"

"The solution is either to increase the size of your squad, or get out: if you want to be in

Europe that badly, then go to Europe. But they won't, because they're not convinced they'd get the gates."

Murray is also concerned about the effect on other clubs trying to compete with those who grow even richer via the Champions' League. "There are United, Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea, then Villa and Leeds, who can afford to pay big wages. The danger is that others trying to keep up with them will overstretch themselves, which is happening already. There's one Premier League club £17m in debt. Another one can't afford to build a new main stand and one still needs to sell players. We've been accused at Charlton of not being ambitious enough, but we won't allow that to happen to us."

Newcastle's hopes of signing the Internazionale defender Taribo West appear to have

been dashed after the player settled his differences with the Serie A club.

Reports in Italy claim the 24-year-old defender has resolved his problems with the Inter coach, Mircea Lucescu, and agreed to stay with the club at least until the end of the season.

The news will come as a blow to the United manager, Rued Gullit, who was awaiting the outcome of a £12m offer to take the Nigerian international to St James' Park.

A delegation from Tyneside travelled to Italy last week to try to finalise the deal, but with West away on international duty in Africa, everything was put on hold over the weekend.

It is understood that a second attempt to clinch West's signature was to be made later this week, but yesterday's news looks to have scuppered Newcastle's plans.

World Cup blamed for Ronaldo slump

RONALDO IS enduring the worst spell of an otherwise brilliant career thanks to the World Cup in France, according to the Internazionale president, Massimo Moratti.

Things went wrong at France 98 when the Brazil centre-forward suffered inflamed tendons in both knees, and then the emotional shock of having a fit on the day of the World Cup final. Ronaldo took six weeks off to recover both mentally and physically from the experience, only to find the tendon trouble reappearing as soon as he started training hard for the Serie A season.

His personal physiotherapist has been flown over from Brazil and Inter have even built a long sandpit for their 22-year-old star to train in without aggravating the problem.

However, Moratti said: "The

World Cup did him harm. Ronaldo is still feeling the effects of that period. His season got off to a bad start, although I think the lad is happy within himself."

"There is a negative period in the career of every truly great footballer. What's unfortunate, is that Ronaldo is going through his one now."

The Middlesbrough striker Hamilton Ricard is returning from Colombia after escaping the worst of the earthquake nightmare which has left the country in chaos. The 25-year-old was in Bogota for his country's 1-1 draw with Denmark, but Boro have confirmed that he is safe and on his way back to Teesside.

"Hamilton said he felt a rumble but that was all," said a spokesman. "He is safe and we expect him back tonight."

FOOTBALL RESULTS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

THIRD DIVISION

Posseps: Scarborough v Leyton Orient

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

First Division: Cambridge 3 Gillingham 0; Southampton 1 Barnet 3; Portsmouth: Fulham v Millwall

PONTING LEAGUE Third Division:

Carlisle 1 Hartlepool 2; Darlington 2 Bury 3; Rochdale 0 Walsall 3. LEAGUE CUP

Group Three Hull 1 Rotherham 4. Group

Five Bradford 3 Scarborough 0.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

Worthington Cup Semi-final first leg: Sun-

derland 2 Leicester 2. Nationwide Football

League Second Division: Bournemouth 3

Preston 1; Fulham 1 Oldham 0; Macclesfield

0 Millwall 2. Third Division: Peterborough

1 Hull 1. Avon Insurance Combination

First Division: Scarborough 3 Gillingham

3; Hartlepool 2; Darlington 2 Bury 3; Rochdale

0 Walsall 3. LEAGUE CUP Group Three Hull 1

Rotherham 4. Group Five Bradford 3

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Scarborough 0.

Leboeuf angry at union

PLAYERS' UNION officials are perturbed by reported remarks made by Franck Leboeuf, Chelsea's French defender, which accuse them of having "too cosy a relationship" with the Football Association to initiate an attempt to reduce the number of matches leading teams are expected to play.

Leboeuf's comments were reported from the findings of a survey carried out among members of the France World Cup squad who were asked for their opinion on the state of the modern game. They reflect the Chelsea player's doubts over whether the Professional Footballers' Association - the players' union - have a strong enough commitment to easing their members' workload.

Leboeuf and the Arsenal midfielder, Emmanuel Petit, even suggested that, just as America's NBA basketball players have done, striking over increased demands of employers was an idea worth considering.

Leboeuf is reported as saying: "We simply have to react. And on our own, not via the union because they are in a too cosy relationship with the FA."

Gordon Taylor, the PFA chief executive, was not available for comment yesterday, but a PFA spokesman said: "Although it is too delicate a matter for anybody but Gordon to talk about officially, we all know here that he will be very upset if these comments are correct."

The disappointment at the PFA has arisen because officials consider they have fought the authorities to gain satisfactory employment rights for their members. On the eve of last season, the union was ready to take their members out on strike unless they were given a greater share of the television money pouring into the game.

Now the increasing number of matches leading players are expected to play has become a burning issue - and will get worse when the Champions'

League is expanded next season to accommodate more clubs. International commitments have also risen with extra nations joining the world governing body, Fifa, following the break-up of the former Soviet and Baltic empires.

Foreign players flooding into British football over the past few years still express amazement that they are expected to compete in the FA Cup and the Worthington Cup, as well as the 38-match Premier League championship - without the benefit of the mid-winter break that is common on the Continent.

In the survey Leboeuf is reported to have said: "I have let myself in for playing up to 55 games a season for the past two years and it's going to take a well-known international to have a heart attack before players wise up and take control of their destiny. They need to go on strike. Certain people are growing fat on our efforts and it has gone on too long."

Giresse joins Toulouse

WITH 13 League games to go, bottom-of-the-table French club Toulouse have turned to Alain Giresse, their former coach, to save them from what appears certain relegation.

Giresse, called back on Monday after Toulouse were knocked out of the French Cup by amateurs Jura Sud, has launched an emergency plan to save the side who play Metz on Saturday. Jacques Rubio, the club's vice-president, said: "We need shock therapy and Giresse is the man who can save us. He was without a contract and we convinced him to come back. He agreed and I think he embodies our last throw of the dice."

Giresse said: "The first thing to do is to understand why things went wrong. This done, I will make the team work my own way. I know what I have to."

Giresse, 46, who replaced Guy Lacombe, can rely on his experience gained in 47 appearances for France. Originally appointed the Toulouse

coach in 1995, he helped the team win promotion to the first division in 1997 before moving to Paris St-Germain last year. Giresse spent only five months at PSG before being replaced by the Portuguese Artur Jorge.

Giresse added: "Coaching is a very tough job, but since I left Paris I didn't know what to do and I'm happy to be back here facing a new challenge. It's going to be hard to avoid relegation, but it's feasible. There are 13 matches to play and we will know a little more after the game against Metz."

Meanwhile, the French striker Cyrille Pouget has failed in his bid to overturn an 18-month drug ban. An tribunal in Rouen, Normandy, upheld the ban, initially handed out by the French National Olympic and Sports Committee and upheld on appeal by the French football federation.

Pouget was banned after traces of the steroid nandrolone were found in a urine sample he

gave after playing for Le Havre against Bordeaux in September 1997. Twelve months of the ban were suspended.

The 26-year-old, who has three French caps, has also played for Metz, Servette Geneva and Paris St-Germain. He is the only French footballer to have been suspended for using banned substances.

Johan Cruyff called off his return to Barcelona to coach an all-star Spanish league selection after hurting his toe. Cruyff was advised by doctors not to travel from the Netherlands after his foot became infected.

The former Barcelona coach had been due to take charge of the Spanish league team in a charity match against his old club, Jose Antonio Camacho, Spain's national team coach, took command of the side, which includes Brazil's Juninho, the French World Cup winner Christian Karembeu and the Argentinean international Claudio Lopez.

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 28 January 1999

Redknapp is redeemer for exile Di Canio

FOOTBALL
BY NICK HARRIS

PAOLO DI CANIO'S self-imposed exile from English football ended yesterday as he joined West Ham from Sheffield Wednesday on a three and half year contract for around £2m.

His new manager, Harry Redknapp, said: "He's got a great attitude. The man's a great talent." While few in the game would disagree with the latter sentiment, the former might raise eyebrows in Yorkshire and Glasgow. The 30-year-old former Celtic forward was yesterday making his first public appearance since serving an 11-month ban for pushing referee Paul Alcock and subsequently going AWOL from Wednesday.

Di Canio's signing took the Hammers' spending to £6m for the day, with the Cameroon international Marc-Vivien Foé joining the club for just over £1m on a five-and-a-half year deal.

Redknapp rejected suggestions that Di Canio's temperament, which had seen him walk out not only on Wednesday but also on his previous club, Celtic, might be a problem. "It's not a gamble at all," Redknapp said. "Everyone will have an opinion but the only opinion that counts is mine and I have no doubts whatsoever."

Redknapp admitted he may not have been able to buy a

player of Di Canio's talent for just £2m if he had not arrived in September but said the incident did not bother him now.

"He can play like you can't believe and do things most people only dream of doing," Redknapp said. "I said to my coaching staff at the first game of the season, against Sheffield Wednesday, that I would love to have Di Canio playing for me."

"I spoke to Tommy Burns who was his manager at Celtic and he told me he was the best player he ever worked with."

"When I told my players he was coming they were absolutely delighted. People like Ian Wright and Rio Ferdinand just can't wait to play with him."

"It will be great to have someone in the side who can produce a flash of genius and turn the game upside down for you."

Redknapp said his new striker had fallen out with Wednesday while serving his ban for shoving Alcock. "He was upset no one contacted him. He didn't feel he got any support and didn't want to go back there. He said he needed a bit of friendship and didn't feel he got it."

Di Canio himself brushed



Hugs and smiles as West Ham's new boys Paolo Di Canio (left) and Marc-Vivien Foé are presented at Upton Park yesterday David Ashdown

Henry backs cross-border competition

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWETT

GRAHAM HENRY may well be wary of his reputation as the long-awaited Messiah of Welsh rugby, but there were definite echoes of the Sermon on the Mount yesterday as he threw his considerable influence behind the early establishment of a new cross-border competition. In the national coach's considered opinion, the home unions cannot hope to inherit the earth unless a British league - or, at the very least, a major Anglo-Welsh competition - emerges from the political swampland stretching all the way from Twickenham to Cardiff.

"Let's get this thing right while we have the opportunity," said the sharply analytical New Zealander. "A British league would be brought in so that the countries of the northern hemisphere can compete more effectively against the southern

reduced the English negotiators to tears of laughter by pushing for a 10-team competition. If Griffiths gets real, an agreement is still possible. If he sticks to his guns, there will be stalemate.

Meanwhile, Henry pulled four reinforcements into his squad for the opening Five Nations match with Scotland on Saturday week. Kevin Morgan, the Pontypridd full-back, and Mark Robinson, the Swansea wing, joined the backs contingent while two Ponto forwards, Ian Gough and Geraint Lewis, were added to the heavy brigade. Gough provides cover for Craig Quinell, who injured his right knee during Richmond's match with Leicester on Tuesday night, while Robinson's presence reflects the coach's concern over Gareth Thomas, who has yet to recover from surgery on his shoulder.

Henry conceded that Allan Bateman, his world-class centre, might end up on the wing at Murrayfield. If that sounded no more logical than asking Yehudi Menuhin to play the triangle rather than the fiddle, there was method in the madness; Bateman, blessed with real pace and a consummate rugby brain, would undoubtedly solve a problem out wide and allow Henry to retain the Scott Gibbs-Mark Taylor midfield axis that accomplished so much in the pre-Christmas outings against South Africa and Argentina.

Across the Irish Sea in Dublin, Warren Gatland named a 23-man squad for next week's eagerly awaited championship set-to with France at Lansdowne Road.

Three of the in-form London Irish squad are included -

Towers silent on Duck import

BASKETBALL
BY RICHARD TAYLOR

LONDON 'TOWERS' preparations for last night's League Trophy quarter-final with Leicester City Riders were disrupted by speculation that they intend to import an American player before Sunday's transfer deadline.

Towers have their full quota of five Americans and one would have to go to make way for a new player, but their general manager, Rick Taylor, angrily refused to be drawn on the club's plans. "No comment. I'm not going into it. This is messing with players' futures."

Towers were desperate to keep any signings secret because if they are unable to obtain a work permit for a new player before Sunday's deadline they will not be able to change their squad anyway.

The unlikely named Randy Duck was the unwitting focus of the speculation. "He's in Germany," Taylor said. "He tried out with us a week ago and now he's trying out with German clubs. Other players have tried out with us as well. Whoever suggests we're signing Randy are either just speculating or they're a week late with the news."

All four quarter-finals were scheduled for last night, but London's training session cannot have been helped by the five Americans wondering which of them is about to be axed. Danny Lewis and Ray Schultz should be safe as they do not require work permits, while Malcolm Leak is averaging 18

Butyrskaya starts European defence in style

ICE SKATING

MARIA BUTYRSKAYA, the 26-year-old Russian, made a good start to the defence of her European figure skating title by winning her qualifying group yesterday.

The Muscovite, by some way the oldest in the event, shrugged off the disadvantage of skating first to give a solid if unspectacular performance of her free programme.

The second group was also won by a Russian, 17-year-old Tatiana Solodova, ahead of the French girl, Vanessa Gus-

meroli, Sabina Wojtala of Poland and the German veteran Tanja Szewczenko, whose beautifully stylistic routine was marred by two falls.

Butyrskaya, who posed for provocative photos in a recent edition of the Russian Playboy, without taking her clothes off, believes her experience and artistic capabilities more than offset her advanced age and once again she was proved right. Her efforts in the quali-

fyng free skating, which this year count for 30 per cent of the total score, left her just ahead of a compatriot, 10-year-old junior, Veronika Volkova. Hungarian Diana Poth took a surprise third place.

Tomorrow's short programme counts for 30 per cent of the total with Saturday's repeat of the free skating worth the remaining 50 per cent.

Butyrskaya's six triples, two with flawed landings, were woven effectively into a variety of spins and steps that earned

TODAY'S NUMBER

5

The number of leading Romanian football club officials facing charges in connection with dubious business deals. The main shareholder of Universitatea Craiova was arrested yesterday on forgery charges.

SPORTING DIGEST

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SPORT

SELES SWEEPS PAST GRAF P27 • HICK, A NEW CENTURION P24

Gregory to outbid Boro for Juninho

JOHN GREGORY held face-to-face talks with Juninho at Villa Park yesterday, as Aston Villa stepped up their attempt to beat Middlesbrough to the Brazilian's signature.

Villa's manager discussed a £10m transfer with the Atletico Madrid midfielder and his representative, Gianni Paladini, who drove Juninho away after the player was spotted leaving Villa Park by a side door.

Despite suggestions from Juninho's father that Middlesbrough were the favourites to re-sign the player who helped Boro to reach two cup finals in 1997, Gregory has remained confident he would persuade the 25-year-old to join Villa. He is understood to have offered Juninho a five-year contract worth £1.5m a year. Boro have reportedly offered the midfielder £50,000 a week, but Gregory thinks the lure of a Champions' League place, which Villa will secure if they finish in the top three of the Premiership, would help to swing

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

Juninho's decision in Villa's direction.

Brian Kidd last night completed the signing of Liverpool's Jason McAteer for £4m to bring his spending since taking charge of Blackburn to £14m. However, Tim Sherwood took another step towards leaving Ewood Park.

The 27-year-old Republic of Ireland international should make his debut at home to Tottenham on Saturday although Blackburn did not confirm that McAteer was following Keith Gillespie, Ashley Ward and Matt Jansen as Kidd's next signing.

By contrast, Sherwood, the club's captain, could be the first player to leave under the new manager's regime. The midfielder rejected the club's final contract offer at a meeting last night, and Rovers officials are adamant they will not make another offer.

"He wants improved terms, even though our offer is a clear improvement on his existing contract," said Blackburn's chief executive, John Williams. "It's most disappointing, but we cannot go any further with our offer."

Sherwood, 29, has three-and-a-half years to run on his current deal, but Rovers may be prepared to let him go. Tottenham have been linked with the player since the start of the season and a move back south could suit him.

Manchester United are trying to buy Everton's teenage left-back, Michael Ball.

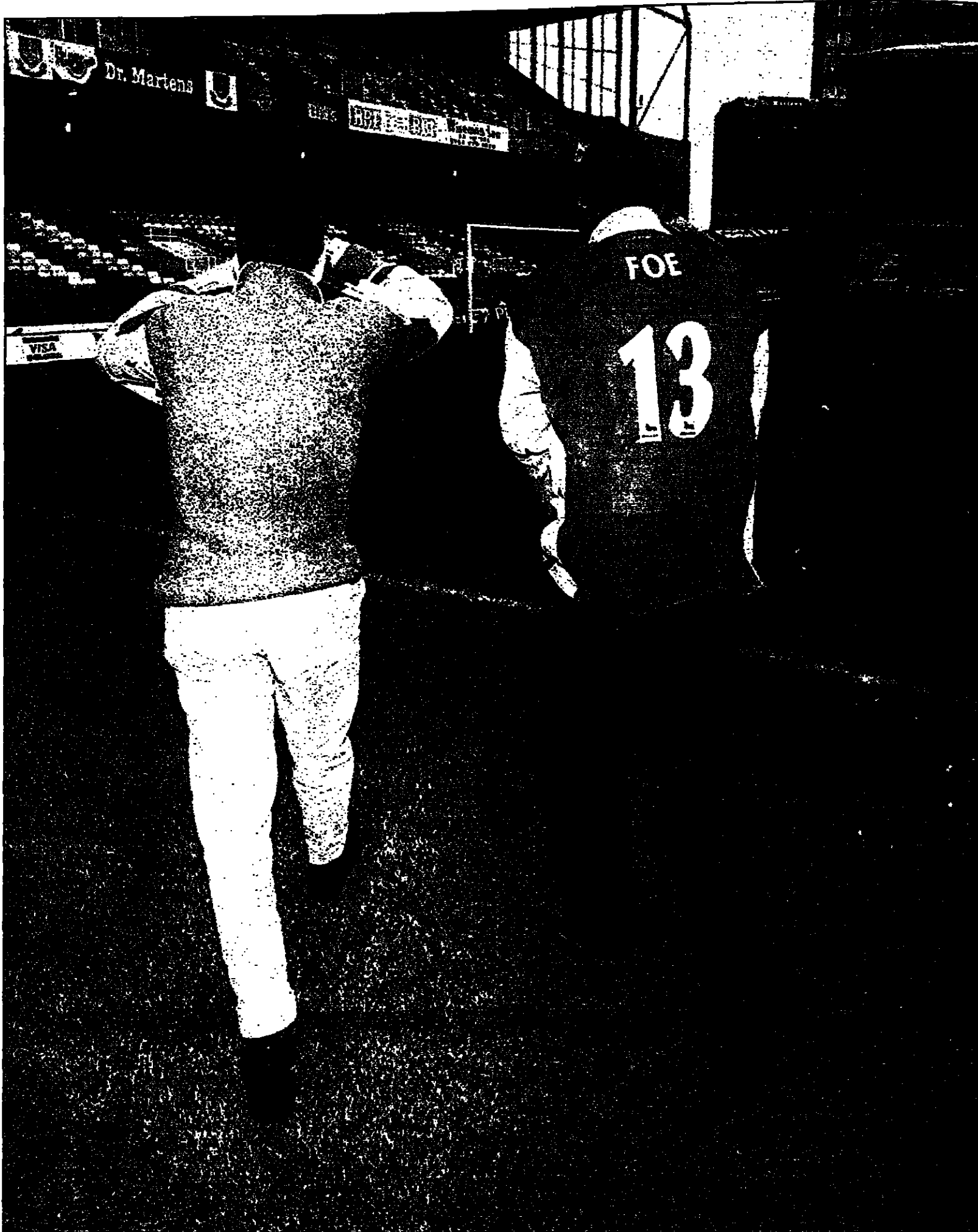
United's manager, Alex Ferguson, has contacted the Goodison club about signing the England Under-21 defender and would like to push through a transfer before the Champions' League deadline on Sunday.

Ferguson, who watched Ball last weekend, thinks he could secure a quick transfer because of Everton's deep in the red and, with doubts about their owner Peter Johnson's long-term position at the club, the banks want their books balanced.

Ferguson is willing to pay £4m or more for Ball, a first-team regular at Goodison for the past two seasons, but Everton have said that the 19-year-old is not for sale. However, Ferguson hopes to have put United first in the queue should Ball become available.

The Sheffield Wednesday striker Guy Whittingham has returned to Portsmouth on a month's loan to help his old club's battle against relegation from the First Division. Whittingham started his career at Fratton Park after leaving the Army in 1989, scoring 88 goals in 160 League appearances before moving to Aston Villa and then Wednesday.

More football, pages 28 and 29



Paolo Di Canio's back with a friend in Foe: West Ham's new signings try their colours for size at Upton Park yesterday. Di Canio's move from Sheffield Wednesday had manager Harry Redknapp enthusing: 'He's got a great attitude' Redknapp the redeemer, page 29; Photograph: David Ashdown

Porfirio poised for Forest loan move

HUGO PORFIRIO is expected to complete his move to Nottingham Forest from Benfica today in time to make his debut against Everton on Saturday.

The 25-year-old midfielder, who is due in Nottingham for talks and a medical today, is keen to return to English football following a spell with West Ham two seasons ago. Benfica are willing to let the Portuguese international join Forest on loan for the rest of the season with a view to a permanent move if he impresses in the club's fight for Premiership survival.

Ron Atkinson, who has already added Carlton Palmer to his squad since becoming Forest's manager, is also hoping to

sign the American full-back John Hartson on loan.

Arsenal are having talks with Kaba Diawara, a 23-year-old striker valued at £3m. His club, Bordeaux, accepts that the France Under-21 international is unsettled and Arsenal have until midnight on 31 January to conclude a deal.

Bordeaux, who are challenging for the French title, have already earmarked an unnamed replacement. Their coach, Elie Baup, said: "If Diawara comes back he will be on the bench until the end of the season."

At Highbury, he would join six other French players under their French manager, Arsène Wenger.

Uefa proposal to use two referees

A PROBLEM shared could be a problem doubled if world football's International Board sanctions a proposal by Uefa, the European game's governing body, to experiment with two referees controlling a match. That is the fear of Philip Don, the former senior match official who is now referees' officer for the Premiership.

The Board announced yesterday that it will discuss the Uefa plan at its next meeting, to be held in Cardiff on 20 February, adding that trials could start "almost immediately" in Europe if it were approved.

A Uefa spokesman explained that the move - tried and rejected in England 64 years ago this month - was "in accordance with Uefa's philosophy of trying to optimise human resources before even considering the introduction of technology".

Uefa admitted it was still finalising details of its proposal but was confident the scheme would be "for the good of the game". However, Don expressed concern that the proposal would compound the problem of "inconsistency" about which managers, players and supporters protest so consistently.

After stating his willingness to listen to Uefa's plan once it was "more clearly defined", Don said: "At the moment, managers complain about one referee on the pitch not being consistent, so there will be more difficulty with two."

He added: "I'd really want to see how Uefa is considering looking at it working. The

BY PHIL SHAW

referees are going to have to have a defined ruling on what they do. I'm not in favour of two referees, but it depends on what they are recommending."

Uefa's suggestion comes against a backdrop of renewed pressure for the introduction of instant-replay technology to clarify the circumstances in a particular incident, or for a football equivalent of cricket's third umpire to review borderline decisions on television.

The clamour for such innovations intensified in England two years ago after replays showed that Mike Reed had erred in awarding Chelsea the penalty which knocked Leicester out of the FA Cup deep in extra time. By coincidence, Uefa's proposal for a second referee comes in the aftermath of another, much-replayed spot-kick award by Reed at Oxford, also in the Cup and again benefiting Chelsea.

Such disputes are as old as the sport itself and became topical during the 1930s. One of Newcastle's goals in their FA Cup final success of 1932 was disputed by Arsenal, who claimed that the ball had crossed the dead-ball line before being passed for Jack Allen to equalise.

British Movietone News pictures not only validated Arsenal's complaint, but showed how far the referee and his linesmen were from the incident. Against a background of such controversy, Southport were allowed to stage a friendly

against Cliftonville, the Belfast club, run by two referees.

Ivan Sharpe, who had played League football and in the Olympics, was present as a journalist and recalled in 1960: "Each official was always right up with play; no trouble at all. Exertion was halved. The referee could see all, hear all. Discipline was doubled. Goal disputes decreased to disappearing point; the referee was always on the spot."

A proposal to experiment further with a referee in each half of the pitch - but without linesmen - was sanctioned by the Football Association in 1935. Two trial matches were held, one an amateur international at Chester and the other a full international trial at West Bromwich, which members of the International Board attended.

The referees concerned, one of whom later became headmaster of the City of London School, each submitted reports. They came out against two referees and for the system that continues to this day. However, there was a final attempt to resurrect the idea at the Football League's annual meeting, with a proposal to try the system the following season.

The speaker who argued, in a distant echo of many a frustrated modern manager, that it was "bad enough with one referee, never mind two" carried the day. The plan was rejected by 31 votes to 18, although Ivan Sharpe would later write: "In 50 years' experience of first-class football, it was the best innovation I've ever backed."

COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Monday's earthquake devastated the Colombian city of Armenia and surrounding towns and villages. Over 1,000 are feared dead and many thousands are homeless. No-one knows how many are trapped beneath the rubble.

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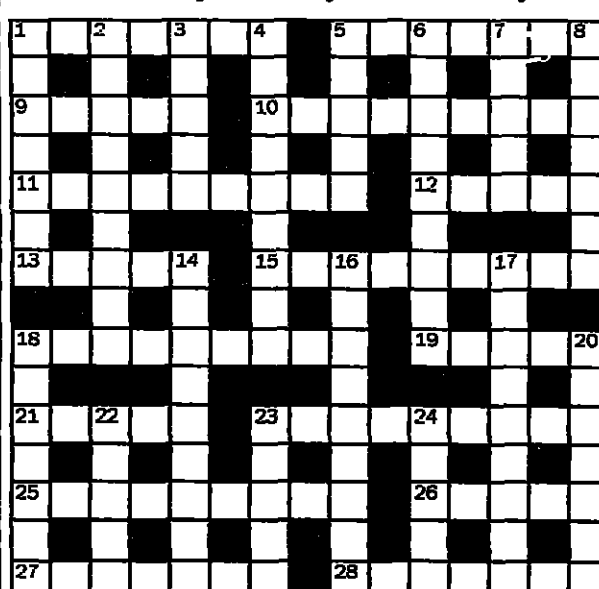
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THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3831 Thursday 28 January

by Mass

Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

- 1 Gleam shows soldier carrying long gun (7)
- 5 Food drop in air corridor (7)
- 9 Reject first of partners in dance (5)
- 10 Ashamed of silly natter about writer (9)
- 11 Dynamic trendy four, in the past, maybe? (9)
- 12 Tough without a form of heroin (5)
- 13 Hiss from wolf (6)
- 15 Eliminates King in course of Spade tricks (9)
- 18 Wind quickens during day, is blustery (9)
- 19 Box presenting study, Chopin's fourth (5)
- 21 Praise former group's backing (5)
- 23 Conveyance engineer? (9)
- 25 Tough's clamorous (9)
- 26 Apparent hint one missed (5)
- 27 Those who forage for dead fish (7)
- 28 Crime proved by time and motive (7)

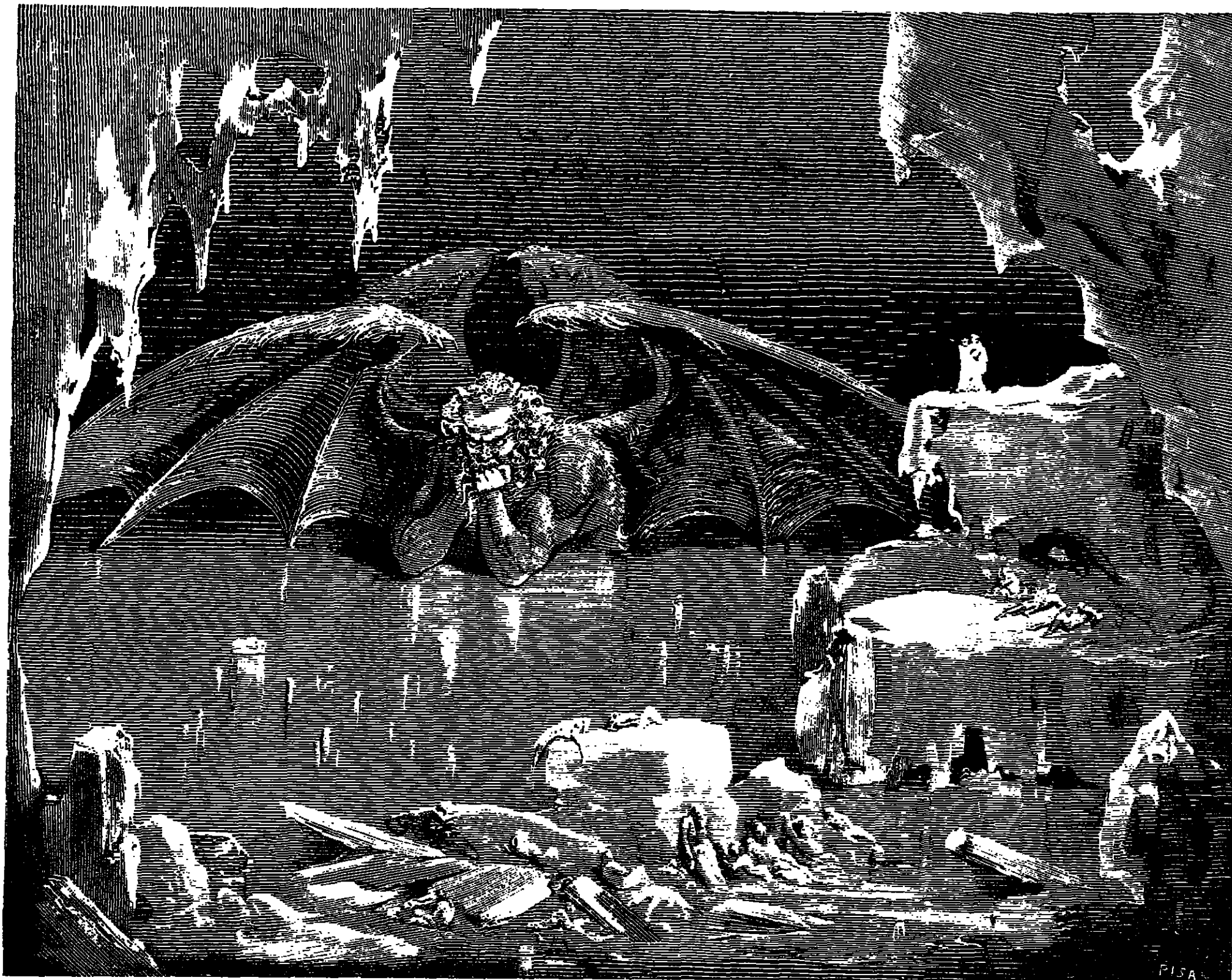
DOWN

- 1 Creatures mistaken for grise round head of brook (7)
- 2 Hasty drive - almost out, caught (9)
- 3 A kite's accessory, perhaps (5)
- 4 Bloomer made by Russians retaining Clubs (9)
- 5 Run out by ship (5)
- 6 Imitation tin scythe, sculpted (9)

COAST OF ARMIES DEEP
ON R S O A I U
NOTED HERCULEAN
S W I S M S F G C
GREEN OVERWEIGHT
I R A L L D S I N G E
REPUTATION
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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Who the devil are you?

At first, of course, he was the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Then Pope Gregory the Great saw him in the shape of a flying pig and, not unmaturnally, banished the beast from church. With the Renaissance, writers like Dante encountered a more human figure, encased in ice and weeping tears of frustration. Next came Milton's brooding Byronic anti-hero and a succession of literary and cinematic offspring in which the Devil got more than just the good times.

But now it's all over for Satan. The personification of evil is on the way out. His trident was this week decommissioned by the Vatican after a

Rheologists of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments decided they needed a "more subtle and sophisticated" interpretation of evil for the millennium.

Evil is a force rather than a person, said the head of the congregation, Cardinal Jorge Medina. He was introducing a new Roman ceremony of exorcism to acknowledge the fact that psychological disturbances and illnesses such as epilepsy and schizophrenia have often been misinterpreted as diabolic possession. It insists that clergy take guidance from psychiatrists before getting out the holy water. And it offers a new ritual, with more sombre language and fewer baroque adjectives, dropping all talk of "the Prince of Darkness" in favour of less dramatic phrases such as "the power of evil."

It is a sign of the times. Church-folk now regard the Devil, according to Peter Stanford, the devil's (unauthorised) biographer, as little more than the black sheep of the Christian flock. He is "the disreputable relative with the dark past whose family cannot quite disown him for fear of somehow compromising themselves, but about whom they remain tight-lipped".

In theory, every diocese has its own nominated demon-evictor. But when I asked the Catholic Media Office to track one down I was told: "It's not really an active profession. When the film *The Exorcist* came out we kept getting requests to produce one, but most seem to have lapsed because they have nothing to do."

In desperation, Peter Stanford, when writing the Devil's biography, travelled to Rome to talk

to Fr Gabriele Amorth, the president of the International Association of Exorcists, and dispeller of devils to the Pope's own diocese, where perhaps they have more need of such things than do the phlegmatic English. But even there, it transpires, of the 50,000 people who have consulted Fr Amorth over the years, a mere 84 could not be explained in terms of conventional psychiatry. And most of those were people who had been dabbling in the black arts – by which, presumably, he did not simply mean Italian politics.

Modern men and women must now, the Vatican has decreed, watch out for wickedness elsewhere. Of course, every culture has found its own ways of handling the issue of evil but the character who personifies it has had a long history. In the early days – in Egypt, Canaan, Mesopotamia and Persia – the Evil One was on an equal footing with God in a great cosmic battle between good and evil. This dualism surfaced again in modern psychoanalysis. For Freud, God and the Devil were originally the same entity, later split into two figures with opposite attributes – the Devil as a symbol for all that men secretly desire in a sexual sense, but which they cannot openly admit for social reasons.

BY PAUL

The confusion entered the picture with the Jews, who set out with one overall divine principle which included good and evil. Then, during their exile in Babylon, they subdued their sense that God had abandoned them by focusing on the wives of Satan. The Evil One became an even more substantial figure in the New Testament. He tempted Jesus for 40 days and nights in the wilderness, and Christ had to cast out Satan's minions from possessed individuals all across the Holy Land.

Satan had become, as Stanford puts it, the leader of the official opposition. Yet this was also the beginning of the end for Beelzebub. For the Christian theologians who followed insisted that, since Lucifer was a creature, his power could not be equal to that of the Creator. After Christ's victory on the cross, said the early Church father Origen, the Devil – though he continued to snap at the heels of humankind – had been defeated. Though St Augustine linked sex with sin and the snares of Satan in a legacy of sexual pessimism which has dogged Christian-

ity since, the imagery of the Devil came to be at odds with the theology.

The paradox for Christianity was that God was supposed to be both all-powerful and all-loving. The problem was, in the succinct summary of the Enlightenment thinker David Hume, that either God was willing to prevent evil, but not able, which made him impotent. Or he was able, but not willing, which made him malevolent. Or as Woody Allen put it: "If it turns out that there is a God, I don't think that he's evil. The worst that you can say about him is that basically he's an underachiever." Either way Satan was doomed not to come out on top.

But it has taken the Vatican a long time to work through the logic. Even after the revolutionary Second Vatican Council, Paul VI, when asked in 1972 about the greatest need facing the church, replied in a modest way: "The need to let our people know that God is with them." Let our answer surprise you as being good, fair, or even superstitious and unreal: one of the greatest needs is the defence from that evil which is called the Devil. Evil is not merely a lack of something but an effective agent, a living spiritual being, perverted and perverting. A terrible reality, mysterious and frightening. . .

The present Pope, by contrast, for all his doctrinal conservatism and his apocalyptic language on other subjects, is rarely heard to utter the name of Satan. Perhaps this is because he grew up in a world where – after Marx – economic, political and social factors are seen to drive history. Beasts and ghouls were the obvious vehicles for evil in earlier ages which emphasised the power of the individual in history; in an age when the complex interaction of economics, politics, personality and sexuality are thought to be the determinants of human action then evil will be located elsewhere too.

Science and psychology, which rose in influence as religion declined, long ago came to their own conclusions. So did secularists. "A belief in supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness," as Joseph Conrad put it in *Under Western Eyes*. Even other churches have reached a similar conclusion. "If evil is the question, the Devil is not necessarily the right answer," said the then Bishop of Durham, David Jenkins, ear-

lier this decade. Myths get at what is beyond reason, but they must seem to be real if they are to serve any purpose, and the Devil no longer seems real.

There are some for whom the Devil continues to be a reality. Charismatic evangelical preachers continue to warn their flocks to check their luggage coming home from abroad, in case a foreign demon has slipped into their baggage. There was a constant threat to the adepts of the Order of the Solar Temple cult to witchcraft. In recent years, lost dozens of members in mass suicides/killings in isolated Swiss and Canadian hideouts. In Rome, Archbishop Milingo, who was moved from Lusaka to a desk job in the Vatican after his embarrassing combination of Catholic ritual and African exorcism, continues to offer deliverance to hysterical Italians.

Elsewhere the word "evil" has come to be the acceptable synonym for Satan. And its use is on the increase. Not always appropriately, says Peter Stanford, who raised an eyebrow over the *Times* leader written in response to the Argentinian invasion of the Falklands in 1982 in which the word "evil" was used no fewer than 10 times.

What the process of demonisation does is refuse to allow our imagination beyond a certain point so that we become estranged from those we deem evil. So that Milosevic or Saddam in their callous calculations, or Myra Hindley or Rosemary West in their apparently emotionless detachment, become figures beyond the pale – incapable of redemption, as is Lucifer in orthodox Christian theology.

It is too early, suggests Peter Stanford, to write Satan's obituary. "He retains," says his biographer, "a place in the popular soul of Christianity, the catch-all character to blame for actions too terrible to ascribe to a loving God and too frightening to put down to dark urges in the human psyche."

It goes beyond Christianity. We still feel happier with the old technique of locating evil outside ourselves, the individuals we hold dear, and the institutions which act in our favour. We still look for something to get us off the hook of taking full responsibility for our actions. We are still looking for the Devil Incarnate. We may, in these enlightened times, have forgotten his name. But he is just too useful to kill off quite yet.

Poetic Licence, page 8

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Upbeat music scene

Sir: How wonderful it is to be able to say that I did not recognise Sir Dennis Stevenson's description of contemporary classical music concerts ("Modern concerts 'boring', says Blair's arts adviser", 27 January).

All the matters he mentions are constantly being addressed, both by the ensemble I run and many other promoters of contemporary music. I really can't understand how he can have missed this as a regular concert-goer.

Far from audiences consisting of relatives of the orchestra and the same eight faces at each concert, the first three concerts of our current season played to audiences of 782, 696 and 907, and I am happy to report healthy advance sales for our next three concerts.

I attended a concert given by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) last week, and their new concert hall was packed.

I disagree that modern composers don't explain their music. With the BCMG and London Sinfonietta it is a rare exception when a composer is not there to speak about his or her work.

I don't recognise the description of an audience falling asleep after buying expensive tickets at the South Bank Centre (where we are resident). We regularly offer tickets from as low as £5 and I have always experienced our audiences as being particularly lively!

The comparison between contemporary visual art and contemporary music is misleading. These are very different disciplines operating under vastly different conditions.

We are looking seriously at this whole area, and are giving a concert in the Patrick Caulfield exhibition at the Hayward Gallery later in the spring.

I am alarmed at the implication that Sir Dennis's remarks will be taken seriously by Downing Street, but I must thank him for giving me a reason to write positively about the arts for a change.

CATEY GRAHAM
Managing Director
London Sinfonietta
London SE1

Inside story

Sir: On a visit to a jail last week, one of my Prison Reform Trust colleagues was given three reasons why a minority of prisoners are declining the opportunity of early release subject to electronic monitoring ("Inmates prefer prison to tagging", 27 January).

The first category consists of those who simply prefer to cock a snook at the authorities: if the prison service wants to let me out, it must be in my interests to stay where I am.

More positively, there are some prisoners who have declined early release on the grounds that they have not yet completed rehabilitation courses and feel that their long-term resettlement could be put in jeopardy.

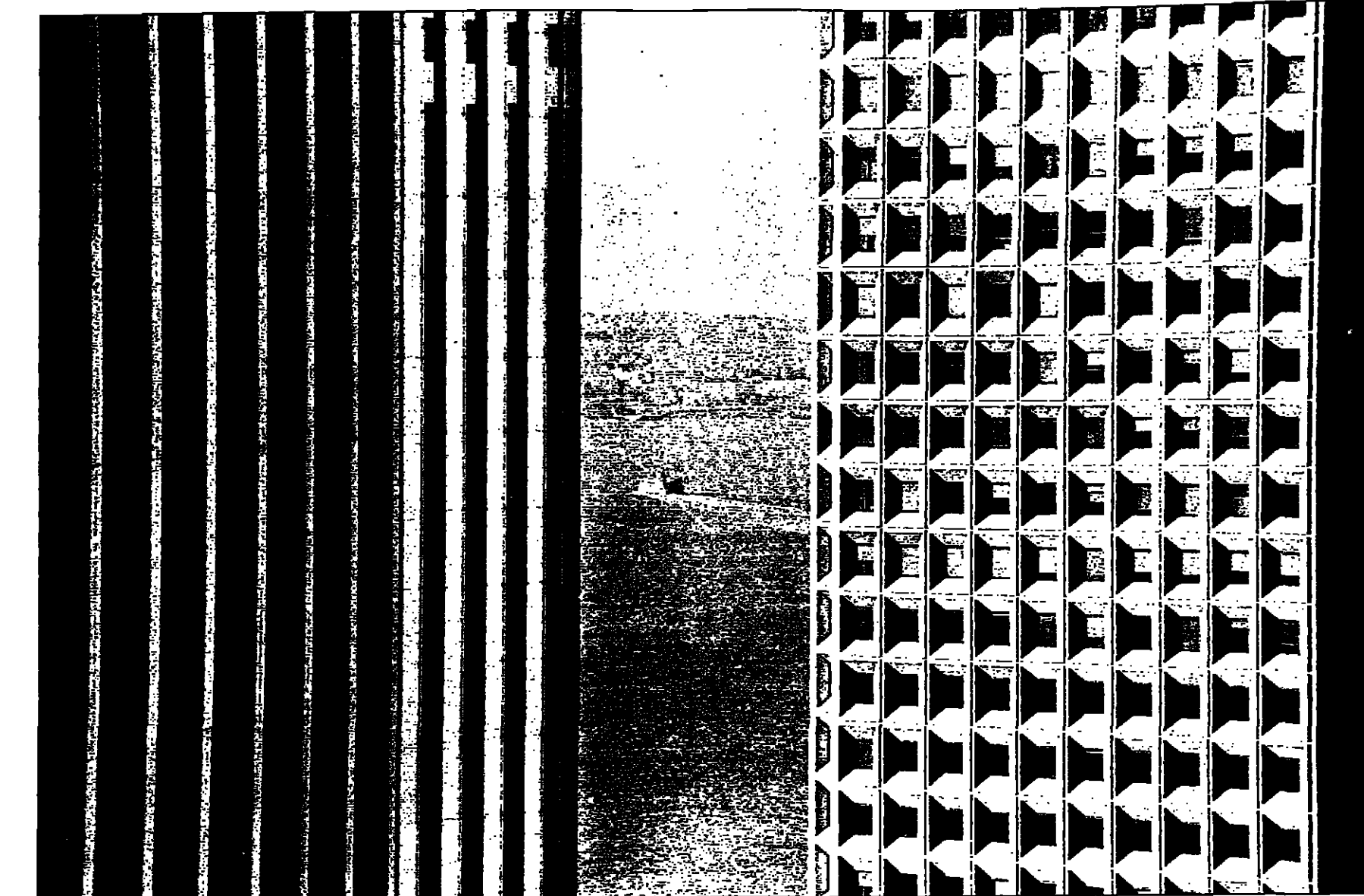
The third category is less positive. Prisoners know that those recalled from home detention curfew will be debarred from the scheme on all future sentences. Those who believe they are certain to breach their licence are "saving up" their entitlement until the weather is better later in the year.

STEPHEN SHAW
Director, Prison Reform Trust
London EC1

Homework truths

Sir: I was interested to learn that "Ofsted queries value of homework" (26 January). Last year two psychologists, Dr Richard Cowan and Dr Susan Hallam of the Institute of Education, presented a review paper at a British Psychological Society conference, which concluded that homework is not always a good thing.

The paper received wide publicity and, during the debate, the Chief Inspector of Schools,



Staten Island Ferry No 4: The ferry crosses in the distance, in a view from Wall Street between two of the financial district's skyscrapers Edward Webb

Chris Woodhead, also head of Ofsted, said on Radio 4, "I think it's rather sad that this piece of research comes up with statements like 'Homework is not always a good thing'."

Now we read that the Ofsted report finds no hard evidence that homework raises educational standards.

It is good to find that after Chris Woodhead's initial sadness, the Ofsted research has found broad agreement with the psychological research. Dr INGRID LUNT
President
British Psychological Society
Leicester

Sir: Your report on Ofsted's study of homework suggests that we think homework might be a waste of time. This is nonsense.

We recognise that homework which is set for the sake of it or which is never marked helps nobody.

That said, we believe that schools which do not set homework are disadvantaging their children and we fully support ministers' guidelines on the amount of homework pupils should be set.

CHRIS WOODHEAD
HM Chief Inspector of Schools
Office for Standards in Education
London WC2

Drug war in Goa

Sir: The Goa police may be giving the appearance of a crackdown on drugs ("Harsh penalties in poisoned paradise", 25 January), but in reality it is business as usual. They have still not arrested a single drugs baron and they continue to milk the dealers for protection money.

The arrests are all for relatively small amounts and many of the victims claim that the drugs were planted on them.

My daughter Alexia, who has been sentenced to 10 years in prison on a charge of possessing cannabis, and other prisoners are casualties of the US-inspired

"war" on drugs, which caused Rajiv Gandhi to introduce the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1988 (modelled on the British Prevention of Terrorism Act). As long as cannabis is differently treated from alcohol and tobacco, and as long as addiction to hard drugs is treated as a criminal rather than a medical problem, Goa will continue to suffer an influx of people who are prepared to risk taking drugs under the lax rule of the Goa police, and innocent people will continue to suffer.

P J STEWART
Oxford

Below the belt
Sir: As a GP I would like to forcefully disagree with Jonathan Reggier's comments (Right of Reply 26 January).

Viagra is a drug for sexual performance, and, except for procreation, sex has to be defined as recreational and as such can in no way be regarded as a health "need". Like all other "wants" it

should be paid for, and at the price of a take-away is a good alternative to a pint of lager and a chicken tikka.

For years the male-dominated British Medical Association has castigated the Government for not making rationing decisions. So why should it be making such a stand over a male impotence drug?

At a time when I am unable to admit acutely ill people, when cancer operations are being cancelled and patients' relatives are required to wash and feed them for lack of nurses, one can only conclude that the BMA, like most males, believe the vital organs including the brain are located in their groin.

Dr PAULINE BRIMBLECOME
Cambridge

IN BRIEF

Sir: Glenys Kinnock's letter on the banana dispute (22 January) prompts me to say that there is more than one way to skin an American embargo. I have, for the past year, bought only bananas sourced from the Windward Islands and other smaller producers. If we could boycott South African produce for more than 20 years surely we, as a nation, can thwart the unloading of inferior American fruit. It was the Americans who taught us about the power of the consumer. Perhaps we should show them how well we learnt the lesson.

SANDI MENZIES-KITCHIN
Long Melford, Suffolk

Sir: Terence Blacker's article (26 January) on confessional biographies is long overdue. The book about Iris Murdoch by her husband, John Bayley, has

currently "America's public enemy No 1", who himself benefited greatly from American aid to the Mujahedin during their struggle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan?

SPENCER A GRADY
Croydon, Surrey

Airing EMU

Sir: The article "How we will learn to love the euro" (25 January) states that "the chances are that public hostility to EMU will fall further in the coming year". If this happens it will be because the Government continues to stifle any meaningful debate on EMU as it has up until now.

Your accompanying graph tells this dismal story. Open debate on Europe before the election allowed voters to draw their own conclusions and opposition to closer political integration duly increased. Since then that debate has been suppressed. Press coverage of only two issues – the fudging of the convergence criteria and Oskar Lafontaine's promise to

harmonise European taxes – have broken through the "economic" spin which the Government applies to EMU. This spin was exemplified by the solely economic basis of the Chancellor's five tests for EMU.

Your graph shows not the public's growing approval of EMU but the increasing extent to which government intervention is beguiling the British people about this crucial issue. It is time the Government told the British people the truth.

BILL CASIM
Chairman
European Foundation
London SW1

Organic future

Sir: Felix Rohatyn, the US ambassador in Paris, states in his Pödim article "Don't be scared of modified food" (20 January) that "American farmers have seen their income suffer as a result of the abundance of global supply and the resulting drop in commodity prices". Food in the US is the cheapest it has ever been in the 20th century.

He goes on to say that "we consider the results of biotechnology used in farming to be extremely promising... biotechnology has increased output". If that were true, it would have increased "abundance", made the food cheaper and made the farmers suffer even more. It would have also further threatened the environment and human health.

What is true is that the booming sector is organic farming, growing faster than either telecommunications or computers, at 25 per cent a year. If current growth rates continue until 2010, the organic share of agriculture in western Europe will increase from 5 per cent to 30 per cent and be worth £75bn a year. Organic farming is free of genetically engineered products.

JOHN SAUVEN
Greenspace Campaign Director
London N1

Sir: I hope that Margaret Lye's "packet" of fish and chips (letter, 26 January) is particularly tasty and succulent if it is costing her the price of a single tablet of Viagra (reported to be about £5). None of us should forget to digest the fact

that Viagra's cost puts it beyond the means of many hundreds of thousands of individuals, at least for any regular use; perhaps Ms Lye thinks her fellow citizens should only have sex annually?

STEPHEN HILL
London NW2

Freak show

Sir: I am intrigued to be told that Labour's "National Executive Committee will outlaw a group of activists in Leeds" ("Labour tries to stamp out anti-Blair network", 26 January). It's a novel way to squash allegations that Labour is run by control-freaks – announcing the NEC's decisions before it has met to vote on them.

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Dealing with the cowboys who run the Rodeo Times

THERE'S A very odd thing in my current West/Wales edition of the *Radio Times*. They've printed the same page twice. It appears first on page 62 as Today's Choices for Saturday's TV – a list of five programmes which some unnamed person at the *Radio Times* thinks are better than all the rest. But if you turn to page 96 and look at Today's Choices for Tuesday 26 January, you will find the same five programmes recommended even though they have all gone out three days previously.

You might say that accidents will happen. On the other hand, you might say that printing the same page twice was a cock-up of such blistering inanity that a local weekly paper might be ashamed of it. In that case, how do you think the *Radio Times*, one of the best-

selling and richest though not apparently competent magazines in the world, might feel about it?

Well, judging from my experience, the *Radio Times*, in common with most branches of the BBC, might well be disinclined to apologise or take any blame. The last time I wrote to the *Radio Times* to complain was in connection with two programmes I was involved with in the same week. One was an edition of *Booked!* on Radio 4 and the other was *The Club That Scott Built*, a story of Ronnie Scott's Club I had presented on Radio 2.

The *Radio Times* listed a quite different set of panellists on *Booked!* from the four who were actually appearing that week, and no presenter was named at all for the Ronnie Scott programme. I wouldn't have minded this so much ex-

cept that the programme had got a Sony Award – the very reason it was being repeated – and it would have been nice to get a mention.

Anyway, I wrote to the *Radio Times* to wonder why my name had been dropped from both the programmes I appeared in that week and inquiring if I were the subject of some vendetta. After a very long time I received a reply from the managing editor, a Mr Hughes, who sighed and said that they relied on the information passed to them by the producers of the programmes and could not be responsible for mistakes therein.

This might have been true in the old days. Nowadays, or so I am told by producers, things are rather different: the producers give the *Radio Times* notes on the programmes which are then slashed,



MILES KINGSTON
This was a cock-up of such blistering inanity that a local weekly paper might be ashamed of it

changed, rewritten etc by the RT according to their own requirements. The magazine therefore

has responsibility for its own rewrites. And to imply that they don't have the wealth or the resources to check their facts is breathtakingly arrogant.

Whenever I have pointed out errors by the BBC in print I have never heard a cheep of an apology or a correction. I once excoriated a Radio 3 programme on Jelly Roll Morton which, although only 15 minutes long, contained more than that number of major errors. Nobody ever bothered to reply.

So here's another complaint. Recently Radio 3 has taken to inserting trails between programmes. Well, they are entitled, I suppose. But sometimes the trails replace the programmes and they are not entitled to do that. Recently, when *Jazz Record Requests* was scheduled for 5pm, they started a

long trail for some dreary opera programme at 5pm – the scheduled start of the scheduled programme – and let it run for nearly five minutes. Then the announcer said: "Well, it's four minutes past five and time for *Jazz Record Requests*..." Wrong, mister. It's four minutes past five and four minutes late for *Jazz Record Requests*...

I'll let you know if anyone bothers to explain this high-handedness to me. Meanwhile I'm still waiting for some communication about an incident a year or two back, when the *Radio Times* listed a repeat of the Peruvian edition of *Great Railway Journeys I made back in 1930*. "I'm afraid we can't follow Miles Kingston on his journey to Peru." said the announcer. "So here's a trip down Irish canals instead."

Nobody from the BBC could be

bothered to explain why, so I rang the duty office and they finally said they thought that one section of the BBC had leased the rights to 3-Sky-B for a year and another section, unaware of this, had scheduled a repeat of the programme and had to cancel at the last moment (without any apology for this appalling incompetence, in the true BBC manner).

STOP PRESS: I have just been telephoned by Mr Hughes of the *Radio Times* in answer to yesterday's piece. He says there was indeed a mistake in my edition of the *Radio Times*, caused by "human error", for which he is sorry, and he is happy to reimburse the cover price to any complainant. So I was wrong. The BBC does sometimes apologise. I only wish I had had the wit to ask him where Peru was.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Kosovo, a tragic calamity that disfigures us all

EARLIER THIS week, this newspaper devoted much of its front page to graphic coverage of yet another atrocity in Kosovo. Some readers may have wondered why. After all, are not five machine-gunned corpses in a tractor cart just the small change of a year-long war that has already taken more than 2,000 lives – and small beer compared with the massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians at Racak only a week earlier? Our answer is simple. Kosovo is a continuing calamity that disfigures us all: the Albanians and Serbs who fight there, and the Western allies and the Russians who have failed to halt them. The spotlight must be kept upon it until the barbarity is brought to an end.

Racak has been a wake-up call. The massacre may prove to be to Kosovo what Srebrenica was to the war in Bosnia. The great powers have been galvanised into action, not only by revulsion but by self-interest, too. This spring, Nato celebrates its 50th anniversary, and promulgates a new mission statement for the 21st century. What a mockery this gala would be if the mightiest alliance in history simultaneously stood watching as an inconsequential, impoverished corner of the continent it was set up to protect was tearing itself to pieces.

So, finally, we have a plan. Serbs and Albanians will be summoned to open negotiations next week, following the format of the Dayton conference which yielded a Bosnian settlement. Separately, President Milosevic of Yugoslavia, who is primarily responsible for the war, faces Nato bombing if he does not pull back his forces. And this, probably, is the last chance. In eight weeks or so, the Balkan winter ends, permitting full-scale fighting to resume.

Racak, however horrible, obscures a strategic stalemate. The Kosovo Albanian insurgents cannot win, but nor can they be eradicated. There are signs, too, that Mr Milosevic has concluded that, like it or not, Kosovo is – in the long run – a lost cause. The problem therefore becomes one of presentation. Believe it or not, in Serbia there are even fiercer nationalists than him, so for domestic political reasons he has an interest to present surrender as unavoidable, imposed by force majeure.

But maybe this logic is too neat. Maybe no amount of head-banging can overcome the loathing of the Albanians for the Serbs and persuade them to accept something short of full independence; maybe nothing can overcome the mystical conviction of some Serbs that Kosovo is their Holy Land, despite the fact that the Albanian share of its population is 90 per cent and rising. So what if the conference ends in failure – or one of the sides does not show up?

All along, *The Independent* has believed that sooner or later, Nato intervention on the ground was inevitable. Today the question is not whether to intervene, but



when, and above all, how: will Nato go in as peace-keeper, as in Bosnia, or as peacemaker? The former presents relatively little problem. Like Bosnia, Kosovo would become a semi-consenting protectorate of the great powers, while passions might cool sufficiently to allow a lasting settlement to evolve.

But what if the fighting continues? In this case, too, Nato cannot stand and watch, or attempt to control matters at long range by bombing. The alliance would have no moral choice but to send in ground forces and impose a peace. This task, experts have estimated, might require more than 100,000 troops (a force equivalent to the entire British Army). It would be peacemaking on an epic – some would say lunatic – scale. But the stakes justify it. A decade ago in Kosovo, President Milosevic opened the Balkan wars of the Nineties. After so much bloodshed, after so many families have been destroyed – just as the one whose bodies were found in the haystack this week was destroyed – Kosovo is where these wars must end. Now.

End this insulting culture of secrecy

THE REVELATION that Nazi-trained homing-pigeons on spying missions were the target of the British Army Pigeon Special Service Section (membership: two peregrine falcons) during the last war is just one of many stories that have come to light thanks to a slightly more open attitude to the release of old government files. It is a fascinating tale. But it is one, along with the stories about Mata Hari's spying and Harold Wilson's putative plan to make us the 51st state of the USA, that it might have been nice to know about before now.

There are still secrets from the First World War that will remain locked away until 2018. The papers on the abdication of Edward VIII may remain closed until 2036. Contemporary accounts of George III's porphyria will remain

unseen. All this reveals again the powerful culture of state secrecy that still conceals the trivial and the vital alike.

There is something offensive about the attitude of those who think that we cannot cope with our own history. But more offensive still is the notion that we cannot cope with the present. As things stand, we shall have to wait 30 years to know the real basis on which a British Cabinet will decide on our entry into the euro. Nothing could be more condescending, or more dangerous.

It does not have to be this way. The publication of the minutes of the Chancellor's meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England show that openness can make for good governance. We have been promised a strong, liberal Freedom of Information Bill. The indications are that the proposals are being watered down by the Home Office. But opening up government is essential for the modernisation of the state. After 25 years of Labour manifesto promises about openness, we expect more than news about two wartime falcons, no matter how intrepid their exploits.

What's the point of spending a fortune on nurses and teachers?

LET US construct a new monetary unit for the payment of salaries, and call it the Nurse. A Nurse would be the equivalent of the annual average pay for a full-time nurse in a British hospital, and would therefore be worth around £13,000-£14,000.

When the minimum wage kicks in on 1 April this year, those who get the statutory £3.60 an hour and work a 36-hour week will earn about 0.6 of a Nurse per annum. A surgeon with a decent private practice will expect to be earning 10 or more Nurses. Robbie Fowler's new contract at Liverpool FC amounts to 1,500 or so Nurses per annum (or 5 Nurses a day). This week, cabinet ministers have heard that they may have to forgo salary increases worth a casual 1.3 Nurses.

It is hard not to feel guilty about this. When I took my first job in television, at the age of 28, I started on a salary twice that of my fifty-something mother – who was at that time a head occupational therapist dealing with mentally disturbed patients at an inner-London hospital. There must be many in my profession who, like me, reflect upon how unfair the world is, and upon how they benefit from that unfairness.

That guilt may explain why we talk about nurses and (to a lesser extent) teachers in the way we do. We are less essential than they are, yet we are often paid more, and it must be someone's fault. An example of this appeared on the front page of yesterday's *Express* in the headline, "Blair's insult to our Nurses". Now, most of us think of an insult as being when you call someone a rude name,

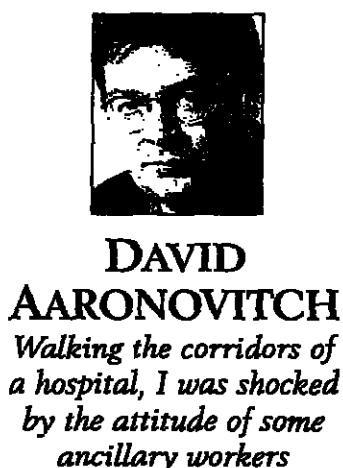
question their parentage, or curse them. Had the PM really done any of these things? Well, no, he had in fact described public sector workers as "awesome", idealistic, hard-working and caring.

What had really got the goat of *The Express* (whose talented and mercurial editor is on a salary, I would imagine, not unadjacent to 20 Nurses – or, for that matter, two Prime Ministers) was Mr Blair's suggestion that money might not be the only, or main factor drawing people into public service. This was construed as an invitation to continue to be exploited by a government unwilling to find yet more resources to fund a whacking pay increase across the board.

Cynicism about the notion of the "giving age" is not confined to newspapers. The leader of Unison, Rodney Bickerstaffe, over a fighter on behalf of the low-paid, has argued that if this is a giving age, then it ought to start with his members. And Rodney Bickerstaffe's members are to be found, in large numbers, throughout the public sector.

What helps Rodney's case is the recruitment crisis in both the nursing and the teaching professions. According to the conventional wisdom, this crisis is a function of low pay added to low esteem. The solution is to pay more and praise more, avoid criticism, and – gradually – they'll come trickling back. The only problem is, where do you find the money for this move, and the usual answer is, by increasing direct taxation.

I wonder. For much of the post-war period, many vocational jobs in our



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Walking the corridors of a hospital, I was shocked by the attitude of some ancillary workers

public services were done by women who expected to get married and leave, or who had had their children and wanted to return to work. Either way, they did not necessarily expect to be, or to remain, the main breadwinners in their families. In those circumstances, the idea of pure vocation could flourish.

A lot of things have changed, not least working culture. Most women now see their careers as being as important and economically necessary as those of men are. With unemployment very low by recent standards, they are not forced by necessity to go into nursing (or, if they are better educated, into teaching). The pool of labour, available at a certain low price, has contracted.

So, too, have some of the non-cash benefits of working in the public

sector. Job security has diminished (though nowhere near as much as in the private sector); for the upwardly mobile, large public institutions lack the dynamism that they seek; and – over the last 20 years – the public sector (save for nursing) and those in it have come to be regarded as hide-bound and inefficient.

And here comes the insult. The consequence of this, over time, has been to create a public service in which the selflessly excellent rub alongside the chronically inefficient. Those too dim, too inflexible, too bawling to succeed elsewhere can find a (comparatively low-paid) billet in the public sector, where they act as a chain around the feet of the others. Often, as in the case of my local authority, they have the Socialist Workers Party dominating the union structures, and fighting tooth and nail against any changes proposed by the employers.

Vast sums of public money are spent these days on unnecessary and wasteful claims at industrial tribunals. When, last year, I spent some time walking the corridors of a hospital, I was as shocked by the demeanour and attitude of some of the ancillary workers as I was hugely impressed by the work of the nurses in intensive care.

So it is into this very mixed situation that the Government is increasingly being invited to pour huge sums of extra cash. The key question – assuming that it is more willing than its predecessor to find that cash – is, how does it ensure that the money doesn't just reward poor workers and sloppy practice? And how can the additional

amounts be used to optimise recruitment and – just as important – retention, in areas of shortage?

This is where the second part of Mr Blair's speech came in. Extra money would be found, he suggested, but it should go to good workers and good practice. To help in getting and keeping excellent staff, more rewarding career paths have to be found within the public services – thus the creation of the new super-teachers and super-nurses. That's why he also beat the drum for local negotiations of contracts, which allow employers more flexibility, and why he warned against the maintenance of differentials.

It's easy to understand why those involved in the public services, like Rodney Bickerstaffe, are suspicious of this approach. Many teachers and nurses will be worried about favouritism, and falling victim to the arbitrary judgment of unsympathetic bosses. The move to local negotiations could leave weak local unions at the mercy of unscrupulous and exploitative management.

Maybe. But I cannot see what the alternative is. Just paying a bit more money to everyone currently in the public sector will do little for recruitment or for better services. And to end up spending a lot more money for marginal beneficial results would not only be a waste: it would represent the loss of a historic opportunity. Since May 1997, the country has been willing to put its collective hands in its pockets. If, however, it doesn't see real improvements, then that willingness may disappear for a long, cold, Thatcherite time.

SO THERE they were, the saint and the sinner, meeting in the hangar. When the new millennium and new century officially arrive, Pope John Paul II may have been the last pope to see his full reign in the 20th century, and Clinton will be the first president to serve in the 21st century. In contemporary history, the Pope will represent what once was and Clinton will represent what will be. The Pope will be remembered for his tireless battle to stem the

changing beliefs of his flock. The President will be remembered for his impeachment, and his tireless effort to adjust his own beliefs.

St Louis Post Dispatch
JOHN PAUL's criticisms of materialism were part of a trip underwritten by Pepsi-Cola and several other companies. Pope John Paul won his battle with Communism, but his struggle to mount a spiritual critique of capitalism and a global com-

mercial culture promises to be an even more complex task. *The New York Times*

POPE JOHN PAUL II is getting the kind of welcome America's

youths usually reserve for rock stars. They cheer his motorcade. They pack his sermons. But when the lights go off and the stage comes down, it's not clear how closely they will

adhere to the strictures of any organised religion. Many young Americans thirst for connection to a broader movement. But often they find it hard to commit to any one religion. Increasingly, they are looking to their own consciences, rather than any religious teaching, to sort out the truth. The danger is that youths will adopt an amorphous belief system that just won't last. *Christian Science Monitor*

THIS IS the man who began his papacy with the words, "Be Not Afraid", the Pope who survived an assassin's bullet to help bring down the Soviet Union, who, for all his insights into the lock that the culture of death now holds on our century, will be remembered more for the hope he holds out against it. In this battle for authentic human freedom, John Paul has more allies than even he may know. *The Wall Street Journal Europe*

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
American comment on the Pope's visit to the United States

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"It's better than no process and no peace at all."
Tony Blair,
Prime Minister, on the Irish peace process

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Hope is nature's veil for hiding truth's nakedness."
Alfred Nobel,
Swedish chemist and industrialist



Complete devastation in just 15 seconds

In less than a minute the earthquake in Colombia destroyed almost 60% of the city of Armenia, killing thousands, with countless more trapped in collapsed buildings.

This catastrophe has left over 100,000 homeless, many from the poorest neighbourhoods, leaving them with no shelter, food or water and Colombia has appealed urgently for relief funds.

Y Care International is part of the YMCA who have been active with the homeless in this country since 1973. We are there now minimising the suffering, not just in the cities, but in the many nearby villages and we will be there for years to come.

Please help the survivors rebuild their lives by sending whatever you can today.

OR CALL NOW ON 0800 013 1055

HERE IS MY GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
I wish to give £250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £20 ☐ £10 ☐ Other £ _____
I enclose a cheque/PO payable to Y Care International. OR Please debit my
Direct Club ☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex Card ☐ CAF Charity Card ☐
Membership gift for credit card (if please)
Card No. _____
For £ _____ Date of Expiry _____
Signature _____
Please send the coupon to: Y Care International, FREEPOST, London E17 5BR, 1010

Y-CARE INTERNATIONAL
EFFECTIVE AID THROUGH YMCAs WORLDWIDE

PANDORA

DESPITE HEAVY rumours circulating on the restaurant scene, Des Gunewardena, the chief executive of Conran Holdings, has denied that Conran's flagship Soho restaurant, Mezzo, is up for sale. "I've been hearing this rumour for ages, and I don't know where it came from, but it's not true." So Mezzo's off then. But even if you can't buy the restaurant, you can certainly get a table in one of Conran's many eateries. He owns 12 restaurants in London alone, seating 50,000 customers a week. Pandora had no trouble booking a reservation at prime times in all of Conran's establishments, all of which command high rents and have substantial running costs. Great Eastern Hotels, which is, remarkably, planning six Conran-branded restaurants in one hotel, must be hoping Conran's star continues to shine when the hotel opens later this year.

WHILE the Lib Dem leader Paddy Ashdown was busy retiring last week, one of his party's health spokesmen, Evan Harris, also had pressing issues on his mind. At around the time his leader was preparing to go public, the former medical student was being interviewed by the lingerie model turned Live TV presenter, Emma B. Dr Harris MP was being quizzed on binge drinking in the "ladette" culture, which the MP describes as a "very important issue". Despite the serious nature of the topic, Evan has his host very convivial, telling Pandora: "The floor manager told me that I must keep my eyes on the presenter. I didn't find that a difficult task."

TONY BLAIR'S declaration that "we will all be middle class soon", made recently at the 10th anniversary party of the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR), inspired the think-tank to hold a seminar yesterday called "Are we all middle class now?" The commentators Peter Kellner and Bea Campbell pondered the subject, while the refreshments being served tested the class credentials of the audience. A working-class snack of corned beef and pickle sandwiches, served with bitter, competed with the rather parvenu Parma ham, focaccia and wine. Sadly, Dennis Skinner - whose railing against Blair's middle-class sentiment apparently attracted at least one donation towards Labour Party funds - wasn't present at the seminar. However, Dennis would be pleased to learn that Pandora spotted one senior member of the Downing Street Policy Unit heartily tucking into the corned beef option.

FRIEDA HUGHES, the daughter of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, created a literary sensation at the Whitbread Prize dinner when she read out a confessional letter by her late father saying how he wished he had published *Birthday Letters* earlier in his career. "I might have had a more fruitful career - certainly a freer psychological life." It is a valuable document for literary historians. But would Frieda have revealed it if her late father hadn't won?



Creativity stripped of its complexity



ANNE MCELVOY
To be a genius, these new films tell us, consists of being oversexed and a bit of a liability

FRIEDRICH ENGELS thought that any commodity was capable of arousing fetishistic desires among the bourgeoisie. In the 19th century, that meant pleasure in the act of acquiring. As a foe of retail therapy, he would be gratified to see his theory vindicated by the rampant intellectual consumerism of the 1990s. The acquisitive desire now extends beyond objects and into the pursuit of knowledge - or at least the appearance of knowledge. That is why the debate about dumbing down is so heated. Those who claim that we are not getting dumb, but that cultural goods are simply spread across a wider section of the public, are applying a redistributionist analysis. In the same way that socialists used to argue about the slices of an economic cake being divided up into fairer slices.

When we concern ourselves exclusively with redistribution, material or intellectual, we care less about the quality of what is being shared out than about the number and social breadth of people doing the consuming. The most forthright statement of this kind of political aesthetics I have seen is the poster campaign for the Munich state opera, which shows a hairdresser, a mechanic and a secretary as opera-goers.

audience as a marketing tool. In so many ways, we have never been so clever or sophisticated. The aesthetics of our everyday life, from car design to interiors, have grown immensely in refinement. Modern art sales are booming; a hundred magazines and television programmes tell us how to have good taste.

Nor is there a shortage of intellectual curiosity. However, there is a tendency to ponder to a temporary and limited view of the ability of culture to bridge the divides of time, place and experience. The implicit tension between dumbing down and brainning up is inadequate to describe what is happening: the triumph of manufactured infantilism - the second childhood of the arts.

Of course, the film doesn't take itself seriously, which is its saving grace. The translation of Jacqueline du Pré's life to the screen does. "This is a true story," we are told at the beginning - a dubious proposition, since the main character isn't around to contradict it, and her sister's version is hotly disputed.

Of recent fictional treatments of real lives, the one that struck me as intellectually challenging as well as beautiful was Shekhar Kapur's film *Elizabeth*, which opens with a scene of Catholic martyrs being burnt at the stake. We see the terror, the prayers, the pain of state violence and think: "How could people be so brutal?" The rest of the film explains how that brutality arose. We do leave with a psychological insight into the tensions between *raison d'état*, between the belief and the humanity of Elizabethan England. It does our intelligence the honour of not pretending that the 16th century was just like today.

One consequence of turning culture into commodity fetishism - with books sold by their covers and prize-givings elevating the mundane into events of media importance - is that we miss the steady stimulation of a balanced culture. We forget how enjoyable are the neglected as well as the celebrated works. Read the book of the moment. Don't be without the latest Ted Hughes or the CD of Jacqueline du Pré's Elgar sound-track. Everyone agrees that *Birthday Letters* is brilliant, marvellous, absolutely fabulous. Next year, everyone will agree that something else is better.

Lack of discrimination and passivity are the enemies of discernment. Someone tells us to read X and lo, we go forth and read it. The Dutch had their tulipomania and now we have bookmania about tulipomania. The Arcanum, the best-seller about the history of porcelain, was stunningly bad. It prospered because the hype was so hearty that it seemed impolite to complain about the result. That is not a story of the power of art. But it is a tribute to the genius of the publishers' marketing departments.

Secrets, lies and the burning need to discuss adoption



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN
It involves the dynamics of sex, race and class and highlights the conflict of nature and nurture

ADOPTION is a hot issue. Hot enough to be untouchable most of the time. Part of the problem is that there are so many fundamentalists involved in the business and they will die fighting for the right not to question or change the way things are done. Many a strong beast has been cowed by the ferocity of this self-righteousness. The contentious or courageous (depending on your point of view) Jack Straw has just been forced to confront these soldiers for daring to suggest that teenage mothers could be encouraged to consider adoption as a real option when they have their babies.

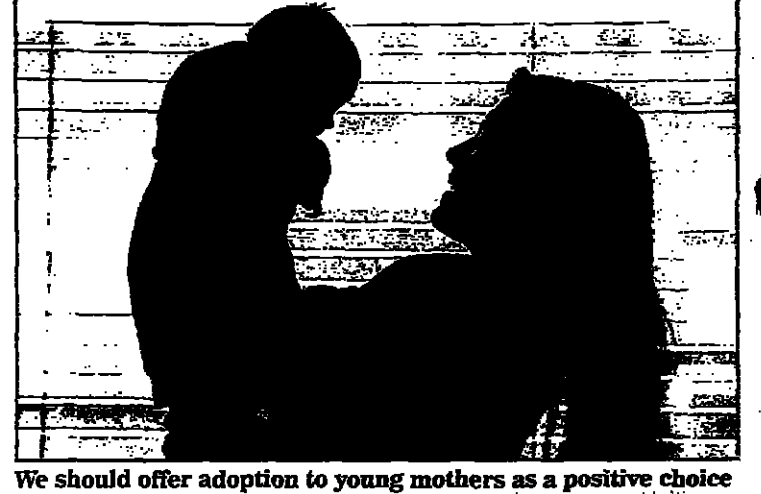
Speaking at the Family Policy Studies Centre, Straw said, I think quite rationally that there are, at present, 3,500 small children in care and part of the problem is that professionals dealing in this area are too obsessed with keeping children with their birth mothers. The longer these youngsters remain in state institutions, in the hope that one day their birth mothers will reclaim them, the more difficult it eventually becomes to place them. Surely with the care system being in the mess it has been, this is simply not good enough for our most vulnerable children. And we know, too, that there are many good parents who cannot get any babies to adopt.

What happened in the Fifties and Sixties - when each year more than 20,000 babies were taken away by mothers, nuns or matrons - is not what happens today. Nor could it be because that pervasive sense of shame has dissolved for ever. We also have an openness, and access to post-adoption information. To say then that what Straw was suggesting is a return to the Fifties is completely wrong-headed.

Felicity Collier, for example, director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, evokes the ghosts of times long past whenever a radical shift in thinking on adoption is suggested. Too many others involved in the business do this too. The maddest among them even believe in a class plot to take away the children of the poor, and Blair making speeches about expanding the middle class has probably reinforced this paranoia.

Dare to suggest, as I have done, that same-race adoptions, although highly desirable, cannot be the only driving principle for the placement of children, and you have to go into hiding. Getting such a child in care brought up by good black and Asian parents would be the best thing of all. But we should not pretend that ethnicity bestows parenthood. There are appalling black and Asian parents to whom I would not give a dead cat to mind, and white parents who not only give their non-white adoptive children a nurturing home, but work very hard to provide them with an appropriate cultural and racial identity.

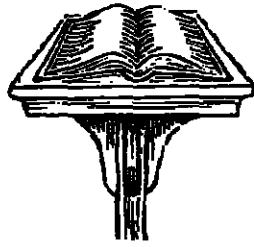
Again, in the past there were massive failures where black children were placed in inappropriate white homes in all-white areas. And it is because black social workers and the wife of Paul Boateng fought for a change, that we learnt about this. The sad thing is that blindness was substituted by deafness as experts and practitioners set about replacing an unwelcome old orthodoxy (All you need is love) with a new one (What's love got to do with it? All you need is black skin). Yet when Boateng brought this up last year, just as now, the troops of social workers, BAAF et al came out holding up their banners of no change.



Returning to teenage mothers, it is right that adoption should be offered as a positive choice. The number of these pregnancies is higher than in any other EU country. Most of the girls are under-educated and have few prospects. As the Louise Woodward case shows, looking after a small child when you are very young yourself can be deadly.

Economic deprivation makes this all the harder. Many teenagers regret their pregnancies because they know how hard is the endless journey ahead. Suggesting that they might get better guidance on adoption is not to stigmatise them but to offer them real options, and to take away the negative image of adoption. From being the good guys who were offering homes to children in need, adoptive parents have been made to feel that they are taking children away from their birthright.

Our grubby little national secret



PODIUM
From a speech by the former Scottish Secretary to the Institute of Economic Affairs in London

AT THE apex of our constitution is the sovereign. The monarchy has already undergone a dramatic transformation, more fundamental than any of the tinkering with ceremonial which small-minded reformers propose today.

Queen Elizabeth II's secretary of state, Sir Thomas Smith, wrote: "To be short, the prince is the life, the head, and the authority of all things that be done in the realm of England." (Sir Thomas Smith, *Republica*). By the 19th century, Bagehot had described the monarchy as the dignified part of the constitution.

Yet, shorn of any personal, despotic power, Smith's definition remains an uncannily accurate description of the monarchy in our own times. It is still "the head and authority of all things", albeit circumscribed in that function by convention and parliamentary accountability.

The royal cipher on government documents, on pillar-boxes, the need for all legislation to be touched by the royal sceptre - this surviving panoply of authority testifies to the British genius for adaptation of ancient institutions to contemporary needs.

The monarchy's most important constitutional function is simply to be there: by occupying the constitutional high ground, it denies access to more sinister forces; to a partisan or corrupt president, divisive of the nation; or even to a dictator. The Queen's powers are a vital safeguard of democracy and liberty.

The critics of the monarchy belong to two categories. The first, and more rarefied, are those belonging to the Tony Benn school, who agitate against the surviving pockets of the royal prerogative as undemocratic and inimical to open government.

The second category of anti-royalists - much more in evidence today - are the self-conscious modernisers. Jewelled crowns and robes are old-fashioned; titles and ceremonial look more like historical pageant than contemporary life; gorgeously uniformed soldiers on horseback are anachronistic, with uncomfortable undertones of hierarchy and privilege.

The real motive of the reformers is a drab puritanism, a distaste for pageantry, on the misapprehension that it somehow affronts democracy when, in reality, it glorifies the nation, personified by the sovereign.

Is the monarchy, then, so perfectly constituted that, as Wellington claimed of the pre-1832 parliamentary system, it is not susceptible of any improvement whatsoever? On close scrutiny, apart from details of the royal household's organisation and domestic economy too minor to justify the term "constitutional", the monarchy at present is disfigured by only one serious flaw.

It is astonishing that a government that has concerned itself with the number of heralds in the procession at the State Opening of Parliament and which has endlessly preached the doctrine of an "inclusive" society, has not been moved to amend the Act of Settlement. This statute, couched in offensive 16th-century language, excludes Roman Catholics from the throne, or from marrying the monarch.

The Act of Settlement was passed in 1701, after the death of the Duke of Gloucester, the last surviving son of Princess (later Queen) Anne. Ironically entitled "An Act for the further Limitation of the Crown and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject", it amplified the already violently anti-Catholic provisions of the Bill of Rights of 1689, excluding from succession to the throne all those who "are or shall be reconciled to or shall hold Communion with the See or Church of Rome or shall profess the Popish Religion or shall marry a Papist".

Even in the harshly sectarian climate of the early 18th century it scraped through the House of Commons only by a majority of one. Why retain the Act of Settlement, which enshrines at the heart of the constitution the doctrine that some 10 per cent of the Queen's subjects are to be treated as second-class citizens?

The Act is deeply discriminatory. It does not constructively prescribe that the sovereign's consort must be long to the Church of England; it is perfectly legal for the monarch to marry a Buddhist, a Hindu, or even a Moonie - but not a Roman Catholic. Nor does the Act represent some dusty detritus, like an unrepentant statute prohibiting snuff-taking.

The Act of Settlement is the British constitution's grubby little secret: nobody wants to tackle it. Apart from the Act of Settlement, the monarchy requires no refashioning. It is strong in its essence and in its place in the hearts and confidence of the British people. It is our greatest guarantor of stability.

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The West's favourite despots



ROBERT FISK

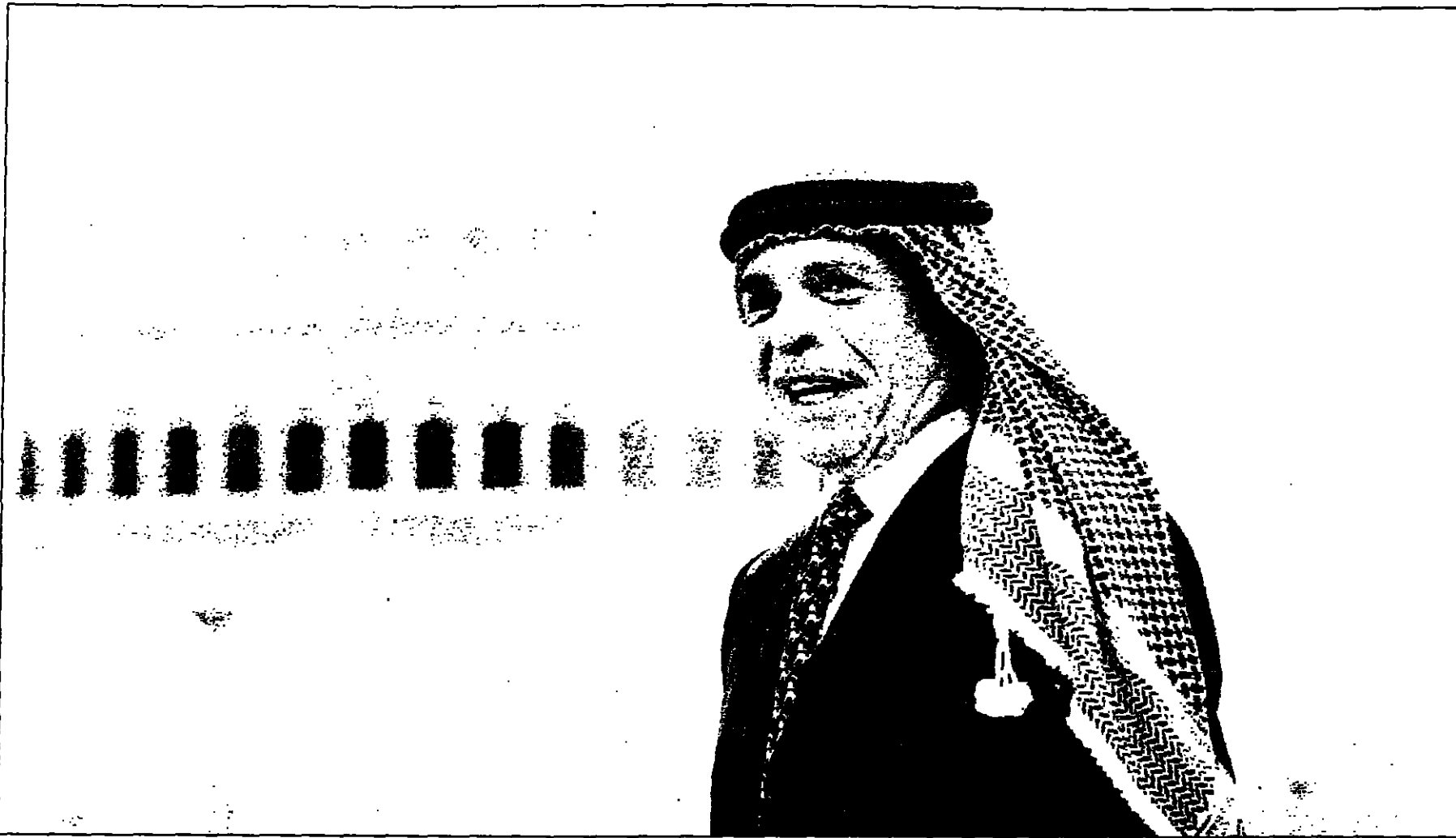
Not once have we encouraged a democracy that would let Arabs choose their own leaders

EVEN TO kings he comes. And to presidents and emirs and all the sheikhs extolled in those Arab newspapers, whose titles mean "The Struggle" or "The Republic" or "The Renaissance" or - and this is my favourite - "The Public Opinion". A dictator's photograph, day after day, year after year, gives a kind of eternity to the colonels and brigadier-generals, the monarchs and "begs" who rule the Middle East. "Perfection of a kind was what he was after," Auden wrote of the Dictator, "and the poetry he invented was easy to understand." So why should a Living God fear the Grim Reaper? Is that, I wonder, why so many potentates rule as if they will live for ever?

At least King Hussein, the dying monarch who flew back to his hospital bed in America this week, had the wisdom and humility to discuss death with his people when he first learnt he had cancer. However, all across the Arab world, age and sickness haunt the lands. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia - plump to the point of obesity - can scarcely stand, and stumbles on the simplest sentences. Yasser Arafat - he of the shaking hand and trembling lip - suffers ever more from the brain tumour inflicted after a near-fatal air crash. President Assad of Syria, who suffered a heart complaint as far back as 1983, has already lost his favourite son, Basil, in a road accident. President Mubarak of Egypt has never - not once in all his 18 years in power - appointed a vice-president.

Even to mention the word "succession" in public provokes a familiar gesture by friends in the Middle East; their eyes move, ever so carefully, over their shoulders. It is the unspoken crisis, the great unmentionable, a subject heavy enough to poison any conversation. But it is real. And we in the West, of course - while we may prefer Prince Abdullah to Prince Hassan in Jordan or Prince Sultan to Prince Abdullah in Saudi Arabia - accept this odd, cantankerous, dangerous system of inheritance.

Not once have we ever encouraged a democratic state in the Middle East, which would allow Arab citizens to choose their own leaders. Because we like dictatorships. We know how to do business



King Hussein of Jordan, a rarity among Middle East rulers in that he has sorted out his successor before his death

with the kings and generals - how to sell them our tanks and fighter-bombers and missiles - unless they disobey us, like Nasser and Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein.

It's a bizarre feature of our present relations with the Arab world that Saddam is the only leader whose overthrow President Clinton has called for in the name of "democracy", demanding that the Iraqis should have a government that "represents its people and respects them". A likely tale. How many other Arab governments, for heaven's sake - with their secret police and their torture chambers - "represent" their people? And how many of them has President Clinton sought to depose? Not one. However, we are supposed to believe that Clinton really - really - wants democracy in Iraq. How fortunate, then, are the starving, dying civilians of Iraq.

The truth is that we, as well as the Arab regimes themselves, have produced and maintained this archaic drama of crown princes and beloved sons, of Gulf sheikhdoms that are no more than the private property of individual families. True, we were happy to ease King Farouk out of Egypt and King Idris out of Libya (we liked Gaddafi then) and to depose the Sultan of Oman in favour of his public-school son. But we want strong leaders who will be loyal to us. Let them have human

rights, we say. But we do not want democracy in their countries (which means, of course, that there will be no human rights).

And no choice for their people. Even King Hussein - whose kingdom might just fall into the category of liberal amid the other xenophobic states - never bothered to consult his citizens about their future leader. They were given no chance to decide whom they wished to rule them. His Majesty ordained that it would be his son Abdullah, that power would be kept in the family. Did anyone expect anything else? It takes a brave Jordanian to call for a real constitutional monarchy. Indeed, the only man who consistently does just that - Leith Stubeilal - finds himself equally consistently inside Amman's state security prison.

Of course, some of the titans of the Middle East have planned their succession. President Assad - whose energy still stuns the diplomats who sit through his six-hour conversations - has groomed his son Bashar, an ophthalmologist by profession but an increasingly public personality with an enthusiasm for computer technology, to follow in his steps. Taken at face value, Syria's constitution provides for a democratic system of succession, but Assad controls military, political and legislative power; he can dissolve governments and assemblies;

he is secretary-general of the Baath party, commander in chief of the armed forces. Presumably, Bashar Assad will one day do the same.

What about Arafat? He has no obvious successor and no real constitutional framework to create one. He has turned his back on the democracy of the Palestinian assembly and survives by cronyism, bribes and 13 different security services - the latter in co-operation with the CIA and the Israelis. Sadly, some Palestinians believe that the only alternative to this kind of patronage society - and patronising society - is a return to rule by the old families of Hussein and Nashashibi, a kind of mirror image of all the other family rulers in the rest of the Middle East. So the Palestinians cannot choose their successor. But be sure that the Israelis already have someone in mind to take over "Palestine" when Arafat leaves us.

In Saudi Arabia, direct succession suggests a struggle to come among the defence minister, Prince Sultan, Prince Naif and Crown Prince Abdullah. Washington, aware of Abdullah's growing criticism and dislike of the American presence in the Gulf - he is said to have told the US Defence Secretary William Cohen that not only could the United States not use Saudi air bases to bomb Iraq, but that America might have to leave those air

bases altogether - might favour Prince Sultan. His son, it should be noted, is the influential Saudi ambassador to the US, Prince Bandar, who in 1990 was reported in Washington to be almost as powerful in President George Bush's office as the secretary of state, James Baker.

The result of our support for all these potentates is regularly distorted by their Western supporters in Washington, in London and - less obviously - in Paris. If we demand full democracy for these nations, we are told, the Islamists will try to take over. Cannot we understand, our diplomats point out, that "whatever their failings" (another of my favourite expressions in the Middle East), these "friends of the West" are fighting Islamic fundamentalism?

But this is a self-serving delusion. True, some of the local dictators allow a careful measure of freedom: upright Arab citizens may complain about power cuts, poor transportation, even demand the sacking of a corrupt governor or two. But any serious freedom of speech has been so brutally suppressed across the Middle East - and anyone suggesting a democratic change of leadership so ferociously treated - that real opposition in these countries has been driven underground. This applies as much in Egypt as it does in the Gulf or the Levant.

And the only political groupings that exist in this hidden, subterranean environment which are prepared to risk the fury of the secret police and the government torturers are Islamic.

So "Islamic fundamentalism" becomes the only real opposition to the Arab governments. We support those undemocratic countries in their battle against "fundamentalist terror" - and shore up their regimes. And, of course, just to complete the beauty of this circular argument, we cannot encourage in these totalitarian states the democracy that would rid them of fundamentalist violence.

Wasn't that why we backed Saddam so generously during his eight-year aggression against Iran? Because he was preventing "fundamentalism"? So who will we put in Saddam's place?

My guess is that the Americans are still looking for a good old-fashioned Iraqi brigadier-general, a military man who knows how to keep his tribes in order. Not too difficult to find, you may say, since some of them are supporting the US-backed Iraqi National Congress. Needless to say, it would have to be a powerful man, someone who did not allow dissent to rock the regime, someone with a powerful security service and a family that might provide a successor. Someone, in fact, just like Saddam.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MOHAMED AL-FAYED



The owner of Harrods replies to Stuart Husband's attack on his store

IT IS a pity Stuart Husband finds Harrods an irritation of modern life - most shoppers find it one of the great pleasures. My retail palace in Knightsbridge is now Britain's third-biggest tourist attraction. I have spent £350m making it unique and exciting. As with most major experiences, one cannot hope to take it in at a glance, but every effort is made to help customers find their way around. There are numerous information desks, store directories and maps.

Mr Husband's appalling sense of direction is made worse by the fact that he clearly walks around with his eyes shut. He writes about following signs to kitchen appliances via men's grooming and car maintenance. There is no such sign - Harrods stopped offering car maintenance half a century ago.

The dress code to which Mr Husband takes exception is applauded by our customers. Most like the idea that we will maintain standards. That celebrities are occasionally excluded proves that the code is applied impartially.

Mr Husband may object to the "armies of tourists...bumbling around", but most people are more tolerant. Anyone wishing to enjoy private shopping can have that facility.

As far as I am aware, The Room of Luxury is the only room in the world offering all the major international designer accessory collections under one roof. To call it an airport lounge is petty.

My staff are trained to be courteous at all times. They wear red rosettes at sale time so customers can easily identify them. If the retail industry awarded rosettes for service, I have no doubt they would wear them all year round.

I have always believed the customer is right. The fact that so many keep shopping at Harrods suggests to me that I am getting it right - and that Mr Husband has got it wrong.

The literary star who burned out

TO THE long list of those whose early and late careers are strikingly dissimilar - Henry James, Wittgenstein, Jung, Cobbett - we should add the name of Rudyard Kipling. The young Kipling was a genius of staggering technical talent and genuine originality, hailed by Robert Louis Stevenson as his natural successor. Having achieved literary success at 22, by the time he was 30 Kipling had to his credit *Plain Tales from the Hills*, *Soldiers Three*, *The Light that Failed*, *Barrack Room Ballads*, *The Seven Seas*, *Many Inventions* and the two *Jungle Books*. Apart from *Kim* and *Puck of Pook's Hill*, all the best Kipling was written in his twenties.

To extrapolate imperial propaganda from early Kipling is inadmissible. What there is in abundance is a love of the esoteric and the paranormal, a conviction that all life is governed by a mysterious "law", a love of India and an ambivalence towards the Raj. This emerges most clearly in the superb story *The Man Who Would Be*



THURSDAY BOOK

THE UNFORGIVING MINUTE:
A LIFE OF RUDYARD KIPLING
BY HARRY RICKETTS, CHATTO & WINDUS, £25

King, which is both a pessimistic version of Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* and an allegory of British rule in India, showing how precarious it was. Harry Ricketts is a good guide to all this and reminds us what a superb craftsman Kipling was, as storyteller, versifier - and parodist. His pastiches of Browning, complete with the typical asides, are inch-perfect.

In middle age, something happened to Kipling's genius. Ricketts speculates, plausibly, that the something was the death of his young daughter from pneumonia and the loss of his 18-year-old son in the Great War. Certainly the Kipling of the 20-odd years from 1914 to his death in 1936

was a bizarre creature indeed. Benighted reactionary would be a charitable description; barking mad seems nearer the mark.

It is true that the First World War affected his contemporaries. It led Ernest Jung into proto-Fascism, Conan Doyle into spiritualism, T.E. Lawrence into Tolstoyan self-abasement and Robert Graves into prickly reclusiveness. But Kipling genuinely seemed to take leave of his senses. First there were violent anti-American jeremiads, because God's own country did not join in on Britain's side in 1914 on Kipling's say-so. Then came anti-Papal diatribes and unbalanced attacks on Irish republicanism; finally there was his gloss on General Sheridan to the effect that the only good German was a dead one.

Obsessed with the idea that in the Great War the British had offered themselves, Christ-like, as victims to redeem the entire world, Kipling switched to virulent anti-Semitism as his preferred discourse and concocted a crazed world view in the Twenties. Defeated Germany, independent Ireland and Bolshevik Russia were all somehow fuelled by the "international Zionist conspiracy". Bedazzled by St Paul, Kipling soon found it necessary to insinuate the idea that the Apostle to the Gentiles was not a Jew. His private letters breathe the spirit of an Old Testament fury: rage that all Germans domiciled in England in 1914-18 had not been lynched; mindless hatred of Shaw, Wells and all on the left; and a word-salad disorder whereby he coined



Rudyard Kipling, a literary genius who achieved fame too soon

neologisms to describe the objects of his hate - Ramsay MacDonald, allegedly a "Hun-loving socialist", became "Roschialist", for example. The great Italian Marxist, Antonio Gramsci, thought that Kipling's *Bandar Log*, the monkey people in *The Jungle Book*, perfectly summed up the Italian Fascists, but Kipling himself preferred the man who made Gramsci a prisoner for life: Benito Mussolini.

Ricketts's straightforward biography provides a clear line through this morass of mental suffering. The author is too timid at times, refusing to commit himself to the persuasive view, held by Angus Wilson, Martin Seymour-Smith (Kipling's last two biographers) and Enid Bagnold, that Kipling was a repressed homosexual. And in his concentration on Henry James's reactions to Kipling (initially favourable, later disappointed), Ricketts does not always show a clear understanding of "the master". Of Kipling's proposal to compose a set of "imaginary interviews" in which famous personalities would confront each other, Ricketts writes: (he) "proposed among other

pairings the promising mismatch of Emile Zola and Henry James." This would not have been a mismatch, as James was an ardent admirer of Zola.

Yet Ricketts is right to draw attention to Edmund Wilson as the most penetrating early critic of Kipling. Where Robert Graves, Virginia Woolf and Max Beerbohm were content to sneer (in the Twenties) at a mangy literary lion, Wilson pointed out that Kipling was the only "crossover" writer of stature who straddled high and popular culture, and that he had modernist affiliations: as an influence on Joyce's *Ulysses*, for example. Kipling, like Dickens and like his great friend Theodore Roosevelt, achieved fame too soon (Roosevelt was president at 42; Kipling a Nobel Prize winner at the same age). He became a burnt-out case. However, he is one of the great underrated figures in English literature, and Ricketts's work will play its part in keeping him in the foreground.

FRANK MCLENN

The reviewer's latest book is '1066: the Year of the Three Battles'

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THURSDAY POEM

POLITICS
BY MICHAEL HAMBURGER

Much the silliest game that men play, it's the deadliest too,
Not only for the players. No crash barrier ever devised
Insures that spectators will not be participants
When the best of the best nation's drivers makes a mistake
Or is pushed, or skids, off the track. For the vehicle must be
Far too big for him, far too strong. It's a rule of the game.
But for that who would watch, mere cars going round
And round? Who would care, were it not for the danger
Shared by the public at large? It's the danger that makes
Those drivers more than themselves, makes them seem important.

Our poems this week come from Michael Hamburger's 'Collected Poems 1941-1994', published at £12.95 by Anvil Press, which this year celebrates 30 years of independent poetry publishing

Walter Cole

LIKE MANY artists who became potters Walter Cole worked as a sculptor before taking up serious pottery – an indication of how the status of the studio potter was slow to gain widespread acceptance despite the early pioneering work of Bernard Leach and others since the early 1920s.

“Wally” Cole, along with his older brother John, pioneered the more Scandinavian style of tin-glazed earthenware in contrast to Leach’s high-fired and reduced stonewares inspired by the Far East. Rye Pottery became a byword for a range of good-looking, useful tablewares.

Cole was born one of eight children to a foreman at the Woolwich Arsenal in south-east London, and showed great artistic talent at an early age. When he was 16 he was awarded one of the few Special Talent Scholarships, studying first of all at the Woolwich Polytechnic, where he drew from casts, learnt to throw and experimented with glazes, before moving to the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London, in 1931. There the young avant-garde sculptor John Skeaping was a major influence.

At this time Cole and his brother John built their own kiln near Plumstead Common, using their home as a studio and carrying the pieces on the back of his bicycle to be fired two miles away. Still primarily a sculptor, Cole worked in a semi-abstract style reminiscent of the sculpture of Gaudier-Brzeska, carving directly into wood.

At exhibitions throughout the 1930s Cole showed sculpture, stoneware pots and drawings, becoming a member of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and the National Society of Painters, Sculptors, Engravers and Potters of whom the pottery members were few and included Bernard Leach, Michael Cardew, Charles Vyse, and John Cole. He also worked on a series of commissions for such august bodies as London Zoo, and on large-scale architectural carvings for Eric Kennington.

The prevailing influence of high-fired wares inspired both Cole brothers to produce stonewares reflecting the slightly more flamboyant ideas of William Staite Murray rather than those of Leach, and stamped with the word EARTH. In 1937 they held their first exhibition of pots at the newly established Brygos Gallery, showing both stonewares and earthenwares. As Staite Murray did, the Cole brothers priced individual pots high, finding that even so they sold better than sculpture. Around the time of this exhibition a

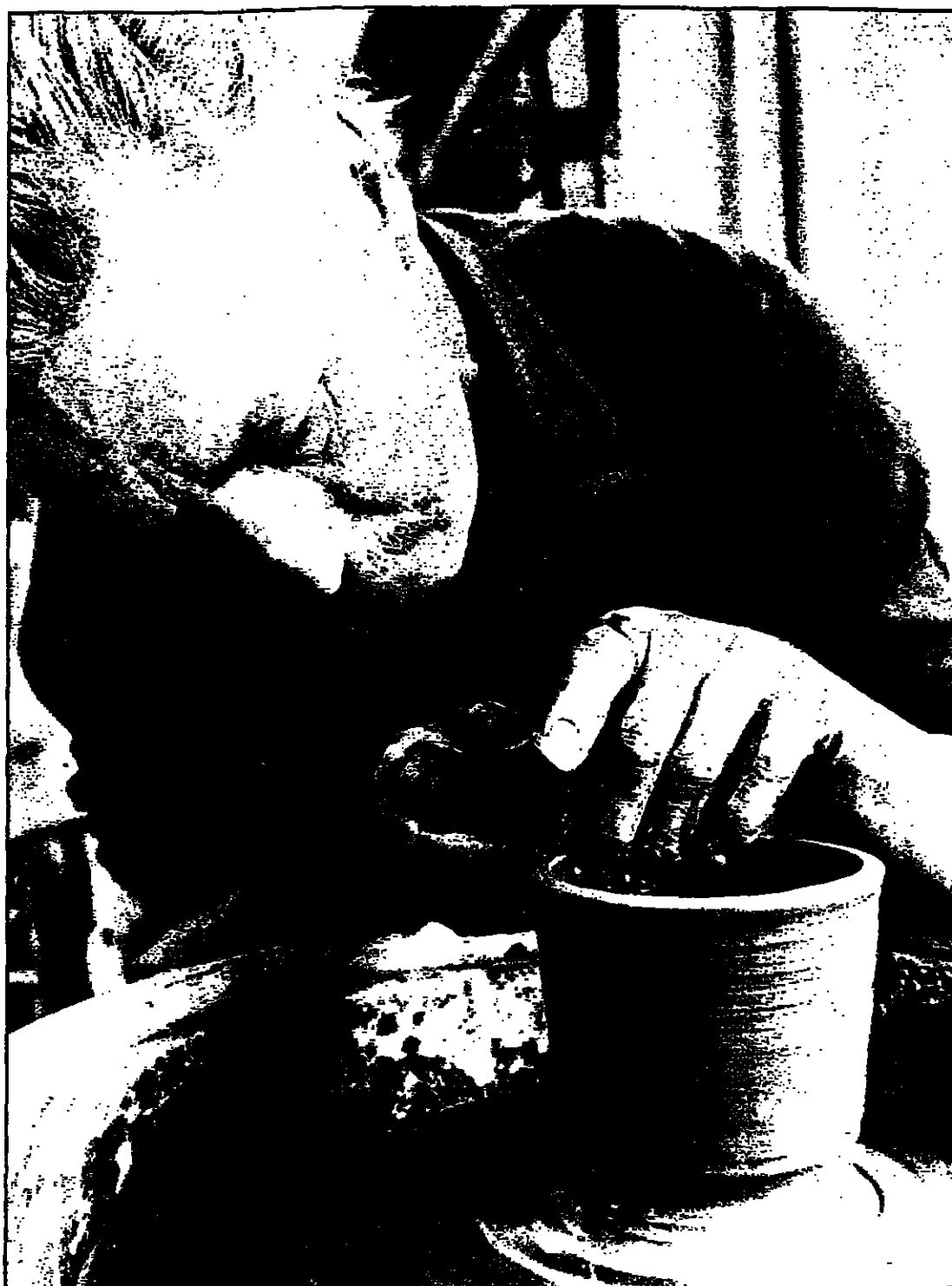
telling remark from W.B. Honey, Keeper of the Ceramics Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, was to decide their future path. Honey suggested that their prices were too high to enable their work to be enjoyed by ordinary people and as such would remain at the level of “art object”.

Experiments to explore this idea were brought to an end by the Second World War, when Cole deployed his creative talents as a Captain in the Royal Engineers, specialising in army camouflage, helping to produce covers for Spitfires, dummy rubber tanks and 25-pounder guns. Despite being wounded at Dunkirk and Brussels Cole continued to serve, using his spare time to carve parts of an old ivory billiard ball into small but exquisite items of sculpture and jewellery.

In treading the tricky path between art, craft and industry Cole challenged many preconceptions about what studio potters should or should not do

From 1946 to 1947 Cole was on the staff of the Council for Industrial Design, and worked with James Gardner and Basil Spence on the “Britain Can Make It” exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He also taught at the Central School of Art and Design, and the first Industrial Design course to be set up in Britain, expounding the link between sculpture and form in industrial products. But his real interests lay in setting up a pottery and in 1947 he and his brother John, by then head of Beckenham School of Art, took the brave decision to buy and reopen the old Belle Vue Pottery in Rye, operating as “Rye Pottery”, they established the industry for which the town is renowned.

Although the prevailing taste among potters was for stonewares, and partly perhaps in reaction to this, the Cole brothers decided to concentrate on earthenware, which, although less sturdy in use, offered the opportunity for a wider range of



The Cole brothers, Walter (above) and John, founded Rye Pottery in 1947

colour and bright glazes. Two types of ware were produced; individual pieces for exhibition in galleries, and regular lines of well-designed straightforward wares for use on the table and in the kitchen that were affordable and attractive.

After five years of war and post-war utility restrictions, the country was eager for new wares that reflected the spirit of optimism and renewal. Government constraints placed great emphasis on the export of decorative ceramics for overseas sales, leaving the home market starved of attractive and practical wares, a situation that was beneficial to Rye and other studio-based potteries. Although government regulations forbade decorative wares, by the subtle use of coloured clays Rye was able to devise a range of slip-decorated wares which were both functional and good to look at.

Within the burgeoning craft movement of the post-war years

Cole took an active part, becoming involved in the setting up of the potters co-operative the Craftsman Potters Association in the late 1950s, and the opening of a shop and gallery in central London. In the early 1950s, as restrictions were lifted, the small team at Rye Pottery moved from slip-decorated wares to produce 17th-century-inspired Delft-ware, painting fresh-looking coloured floral and strip decoration on to the unfired tin-glaze.

Whenever possible the pottery employed low-tech machinery to remove some of the drudgery, making use of such equipment as clay mixers and extruders as well as the technique of slip-casting. A small team produced well-designed tablewares and specially commissioned commemorative pieces, and later decorative figures.

Walter Cole’s skill lay in treading the tricky path between art, craft and industry, making use of whatever

processes and techniques seemed appropriate and in so doing challenging many preconceptions about what studio potters should or should not do. In 1978 Cole handed over the pottery to his son and daughter-in-law, Tarquin and Biddy, but continued to explore his own ideas through his own stoneware pots and tile decoration until late 1997.

In 1982 he was appointed MBE for his services to craft pottery. When he was 80 a retrospective of his work was held in Rye and in London, and his ceramics were featured in “Austerity and Affluence” at the Fine Art Society, London, in 1986; within the context of the exhibition they took on a timeless simplicity.

EMMANUEL COOPER

Walter Vivian Cole, potter: born London 21 January 1913; MBE 1982; married 1933 Eileen Hall (one son, one daughter); died St Leonards, East Sussex 19 January 1999.

Sir Otto Frankel

OTTO FRANKEL imprinted on the world the need for biodiversity at the level of the gene, not the species. This, his most famous work, came after his formal retirement. After 29 chequered early years, he had 22 fruitful ones in New Zealand, and 47 of high achievement in Australia.

Frankel and his three brothers were keen rivals, and all became distinguished. Their average age at death exceeded 90. Max, a solicitor/accountant, spent the last half of his life in New Zealand. In Britain Theodor set up the Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills, and Paul (CBE 1981) founded Petroleum Economics Ltd.

Otto Frankel’s father was a Viennese barrister, wealthy and Jewish. His mother’s family had several rural estates in Galicia. His agricultural bent evolved from boyhood visits to his aunt’s estate. The aunt’s son became the historian Lewis Namier and later played a role in Frankel’s career.

The young Otto was impatient and wilful. One year his Christmas presents went to his brothers: Otto had struck his mother. Once, when he was four, his governess and his tutor took him to a nearby park. The tutor bought him a chocolate mouse from the kiosk, and he was enjoined to stay put on a park bench while governess and tutor disappeared into the bushes to assuage their carnal desires. Otto devoured the mouse rapidly and soon grew tired of waiting. So he told the kiosk owner he had been abandoned and demanded to be taken home. The governess and tutor were sacked, an outcome not foreseen by Otto. He loved his governess and was devastated to lose her.

From the ages of nine to 17 he attended a classical Staatsgymnasium. He learnt little mathematics and less science, but eight years of Latin and four of Greek. At the same school was Karl Popper, two years his junior.

Frankel was small and short-sighted, and the Austro-Hungarian military rejected him as unfit for cannon fodder. The university also was not open to him: he was not a war hero. In the end he overcame the barriers, received some credit for informal studies, and went on to gain his doctorate in Berlin for an early study of genetic linkage.

From 1925 to 1927 the young Frankel worked as a plant breeder near Bratislava. At the suggestion of Lewis Namier, he became part of a team sent to Palestine to establish a plant and animal breeding programme. Salaries were met jointly by the British Colonial Office and Zionist supporters. The team was directed by John (later Lord) Boyd-Orr.

Frankel’s brief stay in Palestine was followed by a temporary post in plant breeding in Cambridge. There he improved his still-imperfect English by reading all of Jane Austen; and he took a secret trip to Brazil and Argentina to advise the bankers Lazard Bros on prospects for the wheat industry. This itinerant phase ended after New Zealand asked Boyd-Orr’s advice on a plant breeder and geneticist for its new Wheat Research Institute.

Otto and his wife Mathilde (they were married in Berlin in 1925) came to New Zealand in 1929. The institute was at Lincoln College near Christchurch. Frankel was not in tune with conservative Christchurch and later wrote, “I always felt a foreigner and was made to feel that. Only in the ski huts was I accepted.”

But his science prospered. Before Frankel New Zealand bread was often gooey, grey, and inedible. The fault lay in the wheat types used, which were ill-fitted to New Zealand’s climate. Frankel bred new varieties and transformed New Zealand bread into palatable human food.

He carried out research in cytogenetics also, which gained him election to fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 1948 and the Royal Society of London in 1953.

In 1935 Frankel travelled to Europe, largely at his own expense. He established close personal relations with world figures in genetics such as C.D. Darlington, J.B.S. Haldane, and N.I. Vavilov. Stalin later ordained that T.D. Lyssenko’s concepts of plant development were correct, and that Vavilov’s methods, based in genetics, were a Western deviation. This led to Vavilov’s imprisonment and death. Frankel counted Vavilov as one of his heroes, and displayed his photograph in his office.

Karl Popper had come to Christchurch in 1937, and he and Frankel tried to assist the immigration of Jews following the Anschluss. They dealt, however, with a Minister for Immigration who thought there were already too many intellectuals in the country.

Frankel was divorced in 1936; and in 1939 he married Margaret Anderson, a Christchurch artist and art teacher. The Frankels’ shared aesthetic interests found expression in the three elegant modern houses they built during their 58 happy years together. The first house surprised Christchurch, and later figured in two architectural books and a Canberra exhibition.

In 1951 the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) sought a new chief for the large but somewhat moribund Division of Plant Industry. Frankel was appointed and charged with raising its standards and performance. It was his great achievement that before long the division had become Australia’s leading plant biological institute, highly respected on the world scene. Frankel was a convinced exponent of the then current CSIRO principle of research management: find the best person to head up the task; then give him the maximum freedom and help to get on with it. He viewed sadly the counter-productive erosion of the CSIRO ethos in recent times.

On his retirement in 1966 Frankel became an Honorary Research Fellow, continuing his cytogenetic research, and his skiing, until he was 90. At 95 he published his last book, *The Conservation of Plant Biodiversity*, written jointly with two colleagues.

From 1964 Frankel had been involved in the genetic resources issue through the International Biological Program (IBP). He persuaded the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to join forces with IBP and chaired their joint committee of experts. Frankel organised several international conferences on the issues, edited two major books, and took the lead in mobilising concern and resources, defining the problems, and proposing solutions. He argued that mankind had “acquired evolutionary responsibility” and must develop an evolutionary ethic.

As M.E. Soule, his co-author on *Conservation and Evolution* (1981), put it, Frankel presented “the conceptual and moral agenda for the discipline of conservation genetics”.

Frankel and his panel of experts kept the genetic resources issue alive throughout the 1960s and 1970s, long before the term biodiversity was coined and became a popular cause. Indeed, it was his address to the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 which launched widespread public awareness of the problem.

The distinguished Australian architect Sir Roy Grounds designed the Frankels’ third house in Canberra, with its splendid garden testifying to one of Otto’s skills and interests. Others included good food, good wine, skiing, trout fishing, art, and argument, especially with the young.

JOHN PHILIP

Otto Herzberg Frankel, geneticist: born Vienna 4 November 1900; Plant Geneticist, Wheat Research Institute, New Zealand 1929-42; Chief Executive Officer 1942-49; Director, Crop Research Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand 1949-51; Chief, Division of Plant Industry, CSIRO, Australia 1951-62; member of Executive 1962-66, Honorary Research Fellow 1966-98; FRS 1953; KI 1966; twice married; died Canberra 21 November 1998.

Frank Williamson

FRANK WILLIAMSON was a very British police hero. He will be remembered for being rejected by the public service to which he devoted 36 years of his life, and for his role in a corruption investigation that tainted forever the reputation of one of the world’s biggest police forces, the Metropolitan Police.

As a child in the 1920s, Williamson’s experience as the son of the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire had taught him to be wary of the Met’s finest, and his subsequent career as a provincial police star merely confirmed this.

Frank Williamson left Northampton Grammar School to join the Manchester City police in 1936. War service saw him achieve the rank of Captain in the Military Police, after which he rejoined the Manchester force and by 1958 had acquired the rank of Detective Superintendent. At the age of 44 he became Chief Constable of Carlisle, and left the police six years later in 1967 to become Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary, where he enhanced his reputation for fairness and blunt speaking.

In 1969 the Home Secretary James Callaghan appointed William-



Blunt speaking

son to oversee a corruption investigation in the Metropolitan Police. The investigation emanated from allegations made by *The Times* concerning the activities of a Detective Inspector and two Detective Constables who, *The Times* alleged, had taken bribes, given false evidence in exchange for money, and had “allowed a criminal to pursue his activities”. *The Times* claimed to have no faith in the Met’s integrity

and so published the story rather than hand over the evidence. In hindsight it was a major error on the part of the Home Secretary not to invoke the 1964 Police Act, which would have ensured an investigation carried out by a senior officer from outside the Met.

Williamson was no longer a police officer and therefore had no police powers. Further, his investigation ran in tandem with the Met’s own inquiry. Williamson had walked into a desperately volatile situation. Robert Mark had joined the Met in 1967. As a contemporary of Williamson in the Manchester City Force, and an ex-Chief Constable of Leicester, his career had taught him to be wary of the Met CID. He was also violently opposed to the dominance of the Met’s hierarchy by an élite of officers trained at Hendon Police College.

By the time Williamson entered the fray, Mark was fully engaged in a struggle with the ex-Hendon head of CID Peter Brodie. As Deputy and Commissioner-in-waiting, Mark had made considerable inroads into dealing with CID malpractice, yet did little to assist Williamson who found himself isolated in a war zone.

Williamson was unable to hold discussions with anyone connected to the investigation without the prying eyes of the “firm within a firm” intruding. Information was leaked to officers under investigation, crucial documents disappeared, and senior detectives conducted a campaign of lies against him. Ignored by a Commissioner who had been appointed as political stopgap, and deliberately obstructed by detectives, Williamson became frustrated and disillusioned.

Williamson resigned in 1971, shortly before Robert Mark took over as Commissioner. Mark afforded little recognition to Williamson, but did write in his autobiography: “He was thoroughly disillusioned and depressed by continual disagreement with, and obstruction by, policemen who did not share his very high standard of personal and private integrity.” *The Times* inquiry resulted in the imprisonment of two detectives. By 1973 two officers a week were leaving the Met prematurely, and bank robbery, in the early 1970s a crime particularly associated with police corruption, had fallen from 65 in 1972 to 26.

The high-profile reorganisations, trials and resignations that ran throughout most of the decade were attributed to Mark, who himself resigned unexpectedly in 1977. Yet by 1978 another corruption investigation, “Operation Countrymen”, was in full swing and, as current cases indicate, corruption has been far from eliminated from the Met’s detective branch.

Williamson subsequently worked as a security adviser to the Co-op and ICI. Knighted in 1980 for his services, the kind of recognition commonly awarded to senior police officers, eluded him, although some kind of acknowledgement of his qualities was achieved by his portrayal in the 1996 BBC series *Our Friends in the North*.

DICK HOBBS

Frank Edgar Williamson, police officer: born Northampton 24 February 1917; Chief Constable for Carlisle 1961-63; Cumbria 1963-67; QPM 1966; HM Inspector of Constabulary 1967-73; married 1943 Margaret Beaumont (one daughter); died Macclesfield, Cheshire 25 December 1998.

Reinette l’Oranaise

REINETTE L’ORANAISE played a pivotal role both in the preservation of an important historic body of North African music and poetry, the Arab-Andalus repertoire, created by the expelled Jewish inhabitants of Spain, and in introducing it to a European audience.

She was born Sultana Daoud in 1918 in Tiaré, a hill town with strong Bedouin culture in western Algeria and lost her sight as a result of smallpox aged two. Until her early teens she studied at a school for the blind in Algiers, before her mother, realising the child had a

promising voice, decided to encourage her to take up music. She studied with the celebrated musician Saoud Medioni. “Saoud l’Oranaise”, an expert in Arab-Andalus music who operated a music café in the Jewish quarter of the port of Oran.

Medioni became Daoud’s patron and mentor, and gave her her nickname, Reinette l’Oranaise: “Queenie from Oran”. She devoted herself to his tutelage: “My master was very strict,” she recalled later. “I never bothered about the audience, I just wanted to please him.”

L’Oranaise learnt lute, mandolin

and the small *derbouka* hand drum, and a huge repertoire of songs, including Bedouin folklore, the chanted Arabic texts of the Muslim sheikhs, rai, the ancestor of the style currently transformed into chart-topping pop music in France, and above all, the long, complex Arab-Andalus sung poems, some dating back to the 12th century.

By memorising much of this unwritten material through constant repetition and endless diction practice – the archaic literary language was strictly the domain of rabbis, imams and scholars – l’Oranaise

preserved a body of work which would otherwise have died with its last performers.

In 1938, Medioni moved to Paris, where he opened a music café in the Rue du Faubourg Montmartre. L’Oranaise briefly joined him, but he encouraged her to return to make her name in Algeria. Shortly after she did, Medioni was arrested by the Nazis and died in a concentration camp.

In Algiers in the 1940s, Reinette l’Oranaise achieved national success, joining the fashionable female orchestra of Meriem Fekai and

broadcasting twice weekly on Radio Algiers. She acquired an accompanist, the pianist Mustapha Skandrani, who would be associated with her for the rest of her life.

Algerian independence in 1961 put an end to this phase of her career. Siding with those who would have had Algeria remain French, Reinette became a *pied-noir* , exiled in Paris, where her musical activity was restricted to parties and restaurant performances within the north African Jewish community of the Marais and Belleville.

In 1985 Reinette l’Oranaise’s per-

formances came to the attention of a coterie of Paris journalists who were beginning to write on the music of France’s huge north African community, and an article on her in the paper *Libération* led to considerable media and public interest. In 1986 met her backstage after a concert at the Café de la Danse near Bastille, sipping champagne, dressed in pink sequins and accepting the adulation of young visitors a quarter of her age with slight confusion and extreme modesty.

In 1987 she performed at the Purcell Room, in London, accom-

panied as usual by the elegant Satie-like piano of Skandrani. During her concert the Algerian ambassador to the UK, sitting in the front row of the audience, respectfully requested a famous item of the Arab-Andalus canon, which she immediately performed. She died restored to fame in her own country and its ambassador abroad.

PHILIP SWEENEY

Sultana Daoud (Reinette l’Oranaise), singer: born Tiaré, Algeria 1918; married 1955 Georges Layant; died Paris 17 November 1998.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, patron of the Victoria and Albert Museum, will launch the Victoria and Albert Museum’s new book, *The Victoria and Albert Museum: A History*, on Monday 19 January at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London. The book, edited by the Princess Royal, is a comprehensive history of the museum, from its founding in 1859 to the present day. It is the first book to be published by the Victoria and Albert Museum since 1989.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen’s Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Marc Karlin

MARC KARLIN was the most significant unknown film-maker working in Britain during the past three decades. He was a central figure in the radical avant-garde of the 1970s and made a major contribution to the shaping of Channel 4.

As a director he crafted innovative and passionate films for both Channel 4 and BBC2. He was tireless in the thankless tasks of funding, producing and distributing *Vertigo*, an influential magazine for film and television criticism, and always generous towards other film-makers - with ideas, support and access to equipment. Yet his modesty and rigour, his intellectualism and intolerance of anything he considered lazy or in bad faith, conspired with the trends towards corporatism in television to render him and his work all but invisible.

Among his many passions, in addition to Arsenal, were English churches and that great radical English poet, John Milton. Yet Karlin, who read *Liberation* and loved the songs of Jacques Brel, always seemed truly European. As a child, just after the Second World War, he lived in Paris, and it was that city and its culture of cinema which formed his understanding of film.

In the mid-1960s he studied theatre direction in London but he was soon caught up in film-making and in the Paris events of May 1968. Dispatched to a railway depot, he was expected to produce what, with a wry smile, he recalled as "newsreels for the revolution". Instead, and in part under the influence of the great film essayist Chris Marker, he made *Dead Man's Wheel*, a film about a train driver which combines a deep respect for one human being with an analysis of one political, social and cultural moment.

Karlin was a political film-maker: his every sequence he constructed. Yet his concern with the truths that an image can reveal ensured that his films avoid agit-prop and instead celebrate complexity, ambiguity and understanding. In the 1970s in London he was a member of two important film-making collectives, first Cinema Action and then the Berwick Street Collective. *Night Cleaners*, made by the Berwick Street Collective about the work and activism of the women who clean London's offices, is a defining film of this time, combining formalist experiment and political will with an unsentimental humanity.

As a fourth television channel took shape, Karlin lobbied with conviction for diversity to be at the heart of its operations; independent production, he argued, should not be just an economic idea but a cultural one too. He sought to support the different, the innovative,

and he understood much about the imperatives of finding new forms to express new ideas, and about why the old ways - of speaking, of thinking, of using images - are frequently inadequate.

My own first memory of Marc Karlin is from this time. I encountered him peering intently at a sequence of frame grabs from the American drama *Holocaust* planned to a cork board in his chaotic office. Preparing his two-hour documentary *For Memory* for the BBC and the British Film Institute, he was seeking to get the frames to reveal their betrayal of barbaric acts. The film, which took more than three years to complete, was a challenging, rich, slow-paced and uncompromising engagement with history and the fragility of memory. Puzzled by a project which refused to conform to the expected etiquette of programmes, the BBC consigned its screening to an anonymous afternoon slot.

Two series for Channel 4, one on the aftermath of the revolution in Nicaragua

One film he made, The Serpent, was about a man who meets in a dream the Satan of Paradise Lost, personified as Rupert Murdoch

and one on Utopias and the dreams of different socialisms, occupied much of the 1980s for Karlin. Both were made with extraordinary love and commitment, and he stretched the budgets to give himself the time he required for the process. He took little reward, however, and by working too hard and too long he exploited himself but, as is rare in television, never others.

After *Between Times* in 1993, which explored the internal uncertainties of the British Left, Karlin made two delightful and often funny documentaries, one on the paintings of Cy Twombly and one, *The Serpent*, about a man who meets in a dream the Satan of *Paradise Lost*, personified as Rupert Murdoch. Both films, like all his work, were only lightly disguised autobiography and both reflected an optimistic and unwavering belief in people's individual



A political film-maker: Karlin in Nicaragua in 1983-84

ability to resist the brutalising forces of contemporary society.

Much of the last year, in addition to bringing out *Vertigo* and organising a conference about the future of independent film, was spent on a script about Milton and on *The Hatred*, a 10-minute film with Heathcote Williams. It was entirely typical of Karlin that I was summoned, as its commissioner, more than a dozen times to review small but, for him, fundamental changes.

Around the viewings, there were always long, searching and supportive conversations: about football, about Channel 4, about the hypocrisy of New Labour, about his anger at the constraints which prevented people from living full and free lives, and about his precious family. He would also read aloud passages of *Paradise Lost*, and there seemed nothing incongruous about this radical,

committed, modern man speaking the words of a 17th-century poet.

The Milton script locates *Paradise Lost* amongst a group of eccentric intellectuals in a London of the near future. Karlin made a film test in which, because he could not afford an actor, he played the character of "The Master". He claimed to be uneasy with the role, a dominant recluse-like figure concerned above all to pass on the lessons of history and the revolutionary strengths of Milton's verse to later generations. But he had, of course, written it in his own image.

JOHN WYWER

Marc Irving Karlin, film-maker: born Aarau, Switzerland 7 March 1943; married 1982 Hermione Harris (one son, one daughter); died London 19 January 1999.

Jacques Lecoq

ALTHOUGH HIS name was little known to the general public, even in France, Jacques Lecoq had a reputation in the theatre of the importance of which can hardly be exaggerated. He was a teacher unlike any other, a perfectionist who inspired many - probably most - of the leading actors and dancers of his time and who brought the art of mime up to the level of the greatest acting.

He was also a taskmaster who accepted nothing less than perfection from those who worked with him and the stories of his severity are legendary. Those who could not achieve his standards had good reason to dislike him.

Born in Paris in 1921, he was interested in the theatre from early youth, but also in sport and his particular art lay in combining the two, teaching physical education when still a teenager and applying yoga principles to the art of movement, so that the body was always thought of as a whole, moving as one: mind, muscles, flesh and bone a single harmonious entity.

He persuaded Jacques Copeau, inheritor of the mantle of Stanislavsky, Gordon Craig and others revolting

against the naturalist theatre, to allow him to introduce body movement into the training of his actors. Jean-Louis Barrault's famous mime scenes in *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1945) are a good example of the results he was able to achieve. Lecoq also took ideas from Antonin Artaud to bring greater physicality into the drama and get stronger reactions from audiences who were accustomed to being mildly entertained by plays about people like themselves.

He founded his own school in 1956 and numbered Yves Robert and the Frères Jacques among his early students and followers. He had more than 5,000 students from 70 countries and a high proportion came from Britain. To study for a while with Jacques Lecoq became a necessary part of an actor's training. Some, like the writer P.J. Kavanagh, who left the theatre shortly afterwards, have described the rigours of his course.

He taught more than mime, but it is for mime that he was best known, and also for bringing back into the theatre the poetic rituals of the 18th century and the *commedia dell'arte*, to which some

of his followers, such as Dario Fo, have created a modern equivalent.

Most of the more experimental and successful current French troupes first developed their ideas from his teaching: they include Ariane Mnouchkine (of Théâtre du Soleil), Jorge Lavelli, Luc Bondy and theatre and film directors from many countries. Many companies have actors, dancers, writers, architects and psychoanalysts who devise shows along his guidelines, such as the fashionable London-based Théâtre de Complicité. Like Artaud and Barrault, Lecoq believed in a total theatre that would break down the artificial barrier between stage and audience.

After his period with Copeau, Lecoq went for a time to Padua, where he met the sculptor Amleto Sartori and developed an interest in masks and mask-making, which accorded well with the Italian comedies of Gozzi and Goldoni, from whom he had already developed new theatrical ideas.

This led to collaborations in plays using masks with Giorgio Strehler in Milan and elsewhere, and the stylised neutrality which a mask imposes on an

actor became an important feature of his training. He performed himself, although infrequently, but those who saw his one-man show with its precision of gesture, total concentration and constant movement around a still point were fortunate.

Lecoq eschewed fashion and the various fads and short-lived movements - mainly to feed a particular ego - that paralleled his working life, remaining true to his own principles of discipline: control of body, and diction and movement experienced and projected as one. In a book of conversations assembled by two collaborators Jacques Lecoq explained his techniques and principles. It is entitled *Le Corps poétique, un enseignement de la création théâtrale* (1998). His school continues to this day, and the number of his pupils and followers will ensure that his ideas continue well into the future.

JOHN CALDER

Jacques Lecoq, actor and teacher: born Paris 15 December 1921; twice married (three sons, one daughter); died Paris 19 January 1999.

Copying news cuttings breached copyright

THE COPYING of newspaper cuttings by Marks & Spencer for distribution within its organisation amounted to breach of the copyright of the Newspaper Licensing Agency in the newspapers.

The plaintiff owned the copyright in the typographical arrangement in a large number of national and regional newspapers. The defendant made copies of cuttings from newspapers and distributed them within its organisation. The plaintiff brought proceedings seeking to establish that the defendant, by so doing, was infringing its copyright.

The defendant contended that it was entitled to make and distribute the copies on the ground that such conduct did not constitute an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright because the copying was not of a substantial part of the copyright work; and because, even if it were, it constituted fair dealing for the purposes of reporting current events within the meaning of section 30(2) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Kevin Garnett QC (Herbert Smith) for the plaintiff, Michael Silverleaf QC and Mark Vanhegan (Robert Jones) for the defendant.

Mr Justice Lightman said that the first question to be considered was whether the plaintiff was entitled to copyright in each individual article in the newspapers or only in each newspaper as a whole. If it was entitled to copyright in each article, no question could arise whether the copies made

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

28 JANUARY 1999

Newspaper Licensing Agency Ltd v Marks & Spencer plc
Chancery Division
(Lightman J)
19 January 1999

constituted substantial parts of the copyright work; the question could only arise if the copyright was confined to the newspapers as a whole.

Under the provisions of sections 1(1)(c) and 8(1) of the Copyright Act 1956, where a literary work or part of a literary work was published, copyright subsisted in the typographical arrangement of that edition or version of the work as distinguished from the typographical arrangements of other editions or versions.

In the case of a newspaper made up of a number of different articles, each separate article was a literary work and the typographical arrangement of each separate article was accordingly a copyright work. The copies of the cuttings made by the defendant were, therefore, copies of substantial parts of the works in which the plaintiff was entitled to copyright.

A defendant invoking the fair dealing defence in section 30(2) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 had first to establish that the dealing with the copyright work was part of an exercise of "reporting current events".

Secondly, he had to establish that the way the current events were reported was in all the circumstances fair, having regard in particular to the interests of the copyright owner and how they were affected, the activity carried on by the reporter, whether the copyright owner and the reporter were in competition, the extent to which the copyright work was copied and whether the report could reasonably have been made in a manner less intrusive upon the copyright owner's rights.

It was quite clear that the cuttings circulated and distributed by the defendant went far beyond reporting current events. They included interviews; comparisons of products of other retailers; reviews; literary articles on choice of underwear; advice on matters including fashion accessories and financial matters; and personal interest stories. On no sensible basis could the copying of the cuttings fall within the scope of the defence afforded by section 30(2).

In view of that, it was also clear that the course followed by the defendant did not constitute "fair dealing". It might be that it would be impracticable for the defendant to circulate and distribute the material within the time frame it considered essential without adopting the copying procedures which it had implemented. That did not, however, mean that it was entitled to override the rights of the plaintiff. It should either adopt a method of bypassing the copyright, or take the licence proffered by the plaintiff.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

mumbo jumbo, n. and adj.

powers is used to keep wives in order, hence something foolishly worshipped, which mutated into its current meaning.

Whatever, it is surely ill-advised in politically correct America to use a word which must anger informed African-Americans and feminists. Meanwhile, will Monty Python's revival include the Drury Lane character Mrs Niggerbaiter? "I don't like darkies!" shrieks John Cleese. "She doesn't like darkies... who does?"

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, Victim Support Scotland, launches the Victim Support City of Glasgow Service at Jocelyn Square, Glasgow, visits Glasgow University Media Group at the Mass Media Unit, Southpark Avenue, Glasgow; opens Strathclyde University's Institute for Biomedical Sciences, Taylor Street; visits Strathclyde Police Headquarters, Pitt Street; and attends a dinner given by the City Council at the City Chambers, to receive an award for her contribution to Glasgow and her encouragement to organisations supporting disadvantaged individuals.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Alan Alda, actor, 63; Mr Bobby Ball, comedian, 55; Mr Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer, 51; Mr Acker Bilk, jazz clarinetist, 69; Miss Enid Castle, former Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 63; Sir Oliver Chesterton, chartered surveyor, 85; Mr James Cran MP, 55; Ms Janet Dean MP, 49; Mr John Edwards, general secretary, GMB, 55; Mr Michael Falson, former chairman, Norwich Union Insurance, 71; Mr Glyn Ford, MBE, 49; Sir Anthony Garner, parliamentary and public affairs consultant, 72; Miss Frances Gamley, television and radio producer and broadcaster, 44; Mr John Hughes, former Principal, Ruskin College, Oxford,

72; Mr Bill Jordan, general secretary, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, 63; Sir Timothy Kitson, chairman, Provident Financial plc, 68; Professor David Lodge, writer, 64; The Rev David Morris, MBE, 69; Mr Dan Norris MP, 38; Mr Clives Oldenburg, pop artist, 70; Mr Gordon Frenchie MP, 48; Mr Nick Price, golfer, 42; Mr Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for London and Construction, 54; Maj Gen Martin Sinnott, former senior executive and secretary, Kennel Club, 71; Sir Trevor Skeet, former MP, 61; Mr Ian Sloane, ambassador to Mongolia, 61; Professor John Tavener, composer, 55; Mr David Thompson, former chairman, Rank Xerox UK, 67; Sir Michael Weir, former diplo-

mat, 74; The Rev Barrington White, former Principal, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 65; The Right Rev James Whyte, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 78; Lord Windlesham, Principal, Brasenose College, Oxford, 67; Mr Robert Wyatt, rock musician, 54.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Henry Morton Stanley, explorer, 1841; Arthur Rubinstein, pianist, 1889. Deaths: Sir Francis Drake, sailor, at sea 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library, 1613; William Butler Yeats, poet and playwright, 1939. On this day: the Diet of Worms began, 1521; the *Independent*

on Sunday was first published, 1890. Today is the Feast Day of St Amadeus of Lausanne, St Paulinus of Aquileia, St Peter Nolasco, St Peter Thomas and St Thomas Aquinas.

LECTURES

National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "The Trial and Execution of King Charles I", 1.10pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Amelia Fearn, "20th-century Jewellery and Wendy Ramsdell", 2pm. British Museum: Christopher Date, "Introducing 'Building the British Museum'", 11.30am. Tate Gallery: Edwin Aitkin, "Colour and Form: Matisse and Picasso", 1pm.

Do trial separations ever work?

Brian's been living with his girlfriend for three years, but things haven't been going well, despite lots of talking. Now she wants a trial separation. He worries that once they split, they'll never get back together. Should he hang on, or go?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Brian's right to be nervous. The word "trial" is always one to be wary of. It's like those free "trial" offers from magazines. You accept them for free for three months and then, boom, you forget to cancel the standing order and get yourself lumbered with some ghastly consumer magazine for the rest of the year.

A "trial" anything is usually a trial in every nuance of the word. It's a try-out, certainly, but it's also a torture. And in the case of a separation, who, anyway, knows what the rules are? I once had a trial separation with a boyfriend and when I asked him whether he expected us to sleep with other people he just exploded. "Frankly I don't know how you can ask such a question!" he shouted. I still have no idea what he meant.

Brian says that he and his girlfriend have been talking about their relationship for ages, and still nothing's been resolved. So what on earth would be gained by hanging on? And anyway, how humiliating for him. He's been told to get out, politely if it's true, but get out all the same.

If he were Mr Cool, he would have packed his bags full of as many possessions as possible, and left that very afternoon, rather than hanging on in there waiting for my reply. He should have shut

the front door, leaving no forwarding address, and saying he'd be in touch in three months' time, and he should have left his girlfriend reeling, wondering whether the suggestion she'd made was right or not. And then he should have vanished from the face of the earth, like a spy, making absolutely certain that there was no way she could get in touch with him. A trusted mutual friend could have collected his post every week, or be his post restante.

When my husband-to-be (although he didn't know that at the time) decided that he needed space to sort himself out by going to Canada for six months, I responded by not ringing or writing at all. He was back within two months, having made a date at the register office.

No one likes splitting up. Even Brian's girlfriend would probably prefer it if they could stay together. But clearly the situation's become unbearable for her. And almost certainly she's suggested a trial separation to take the edge off what she really means, which is: "I don't love you or fancy you any more. Get out!"

Trial separations are often a way to dodge the violent rows, the fireworks, the recriminations, of a real separation. This tactic doesn't usually work. All you are doing, by suggesting a trial separation, is putting off the evil day when you

do have to tell someone to get out of your life, and you get the anger and upset then.

Unless there are children involved, once you have agreed on a trial separation, that's what it should be. There should be no weekly dinners, or twice-weekly phone calls, or "But we said we'd go to your sister's wedding together, so we'd pretend everything's OK's. All that would mean is that, from different points of the compass, you'd set out, both self-conscious, both miserably uncomfortable, kind of pretending that you were together but knowing you weren't.

Trial separations, rather like holidays, soon widen the cracks in a relationship. Once one (and it only takes one) unhappy partner has had a taste of freedom that he or she finds liberating and fun, there's sadly never any going back.

Brian had better get the message. Almost certainly, it's over. By leaving as soon as possible, at least he will retain a little bit of dignity.



This is a bid for freedom
Brian is right to feel concerned. Many years ago I suggested to my partner that we should have a "trial separation" because things were starting to go wrong, though no other person was involved. Although I told her - and myself - that we both needed "space" to think and find ourselves, the truth was that I was desperate to get out, and was too much of a coward to be honest about it.

Whatever Brian decides to do, he does need to acknowledge that the "separation" his partner is asking for may well be a euphemism for "freedom".

ANONYMOUS

If you want her, let her go. Brian's relationship with his girlfriend hasn't been good for some time and he's tried with her for three years, so I would suggest he goes along with her wish.

The length of time two people have lived together doesn't come into it; if they are aware that all is not well and, despite talking about it, is still not showing any signs of improvement, that is the time to decide that a break may be the only answer. Breaking up with someone you love is bound to be painful but is far preferable to creaking along to finally fizzle out. I recently came across a saying

from the Chinese: "If you want something badly enough, let it go. If it comes back, it is for you. If it doesn't, it was not meant for you." IAIN COWAN
Sevenoaks, Kent

Brian's partner is moving on. No one wants a painful separation. But Brian can't hang on, even if he wants to. His urge to cling is a symptom of his dependency and the probable reason why things

aren't working. Brian is stuck and his partner is moving on. Hard as it may be, he must let go. In *The Dance of Intimacy*, Harriet Lerner says: "real closeness occurs ... not when it is pursued or demanded ... but when both individuals work consistently on their own selves." If he uses this to raise his self-esteem, he'll be better equipped, in time, to face the future. ANTHONY ROSE
London SW4

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
My friend Philip is a highly intelligent man of 40, with two brilliant degrees. He's a member of Mensa and has a wonderful personality. The problem is, he suffers from depression. He's had years of psychotherapy, and takes daily medication which has been successful. He's been sectioned under the Mental Health Act four times, but has successfully appealed against ECT which rightly terrifies him. He's been clear of disabling bouts of depression for six years now, and happy with family and small children. The problem is that though he applies for jobs and is often successful at

interview, he's turned down by employers when they discover his medical history. This smacks of prejudice to me, but how can I help him? He's just been knocked back yet again, and I can see the beginnings of the onset of another depressive episode. Yours sincerely, Peter

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-233 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet.

What about the bath? 'I've never cleaned it per se'

Slovenliness is a feminist issue, it seems. If we're all so sick of housework, why do we bother doing it? Emma Cook talks to women who've laid down the duster

Jennifer Grimshaw stares at her carpet and frowns for a moment, deep in concentration. Or maybe it's a grimace. It's hard to tell in this light: rivulets of brown dirt cover all the windows. Dust, hair and other detritus clings to the nylon pile. She wipes her finger across a small coffee table, leaving a dark brown trail. "A Hoover, you say. Mmm. When did I last use one? Now that's a difficult one. Five years at least, I'd say. I can't think why I should start using one now." The grimace turns to a smile of satisfaction.

Jennifer, a businesswoman in her forties, is cheerfully self-righteous about her attitude to housework. Her flat is a temple to dirt, untouched by duster, Hoover, brush, cloth and scourer. Jennifer's reasons for not cleaning are numerous and often original. There is thought behind her squalor.

"For a start, dusting just creates static. Also I can't justify the energy wastage by the community who create all these labour-saving things. There are better things to do. Anyway dust doesn't kill you," she says, handing me an ancient sludge-coloured mug of something that resembles Oxo soup but is described as Earl Grey tea. "There is logic too. It's all down to saving my efforts. Everything is at hand - why put things away?"

She takes a dim view of women who waste their hours on household tasks. "I suspect it's the only way they can control their environment. There's an element of self-help, a need of internal control when externally they feel they have very little."

One can only assume Jennifer feels she has immense control over her external environment. It would explain why the interior of her small ninth-floor flat in a tower block just off London's Baker Street would make Miss Havisham's look like Mr Sheen's place in comparison.

Credit-card bills are piled up next to the sink. An obstacle course of plastic bags litters the floor. ("Why bother with bins hidden in units when you can put the rubbish straight in like this?" she says, aiming a teabag at an already overflowing bag.)

To look at the floor, though, you really need a strong stomach. The edges of the worn, orangey lino are slaked in what looks like black treacle topped with grey duff. It gets worse. Every surface of Jennifer's bathroom is yellow. What about the bath? "I've never cleaned it per se. I'll rinse it out after I use it. I use elbow grease, not Jif." And the loo? "Oh, that gets done whenever the gunk builds up," she says cheerfully.



Jennifer Grimshaw: 'Everything is at hand - why put things away?'

Mark Childers

Still, even if some of Jennifer's habits, or lack of them, were enough to put me off my tea, her sentiments are admirable. "I don't like the assumption that I should be ashamed about my attitude to cleaning. I'm not a sociable person out to impress so why should I bother?" Instead, she spends her time reading, meeting friends and going to the theatre. "A woman's role used to be to fight against infection but we live in a far cleaner world now," she reflects. "This level of dirt you see here is what a clean lady at the beginning of the century could only dream of."

Vicky Keane, 31, is as resistant to housework as Jennifer and advocates a seductive philosophy: feminism through slovenliness. "It is political for me. I live with seven other girls here and every surface is covered in wine bottles, ashtrays, dirty clothes and old washing up. So what? I just think it

was blokes, no one would look twice." A student of history, literature and philosophy, Vicky has no time in her life for domestic duties. "Iron?" she spits. "I'll never use one of those. No way, ever in my life. I've never touched a Hoover either."

'Iron?' she spits. 'I'll never use one of those. I've never touched a Hoover either'

Vicky is, she insists, extremely hygienic and claims to be the only girl in the household to clean the lavatory. "Hygiene is a different issue. That's really important. But I really like the fact that I'm messy. I revel in it."

So does a friend of mine who has, impressively, entered motherhood and still not ironed a thing. Recently,

her young son saw a toy ironing board at play school and started setting out knives and forks on it. It was the first time he'd laid eyes on one and he assumed it was a kitchen table.

If only there were more female domestic slobes around. Then we wouldn't

washing, 46 minutes shopping and 70 minutes cleaning.

The question is, why do they carry on doing it? Inadequate childcare, economic inequality and lazy men are all factors, of course. But there are other reasons too; fear, shame, maybe, and ingrained habit.

Vicky's approach is perhaps the most helpful. Laziness, ironically, is the most effective form of direct action. And it works. Personally, I've only cleaned the kitchen and sitting room twice in the last six months. The bath, even less. Which means my boyfriend has to do it. He moans, but in the face of my intractable languor, he has no choice. When it comes to housework, liberation through inertia is the only way forward.

Video Nation's *'Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework'* starts on 2 February, BBC2

POETIC LICENCE

BY MARTIN NEWELL

THE DEVIL YOU KNEW

The Devil is to lose his old image. A Vatican commission, which is reviewing its outdated exorcism procedures, will this week remould the Devil's cloven-footed image into a more mundane, bland definition, compatible with modern ideas of 'psychological disturbance'.



The Devil packed his binbag
And clearing out his desk,
Said: "Frankly, I'm astonished.
It's almost Kafkaesque
You could say that I'm gutted
They've sacked me in effect
But that's the problem these days
You don't get the respect
The thing that makes me sickest?
This myth they're putting out,
That Evil somehow triumphs
If good men sit about.

That's rubbish, for a starter.
To propagate your gloom
You've got to know your product
- And how to work a room
Locate your market leaders
Like Ignorance and War
Present them to your client-base
But leave them wanting more.
It's often down to finding
The work for idle hands
Old-fashioned single-tasking
Which no one understands.

The hooves, and hairy hindparts
They're like a uniform.
And red. What does it tell you?
Professional - yet warm.
It reassures the punters
And lets them know I'm real.
The horns, the cloak, the pitchfork
Cry out: "Let's do a deal!"
But where's the Devil's work now?
I mean, for pity's sake.
There's only wheel clamping
And daily Ricki Lake.
The planting of leylandii,
The seating plans for planes,
My self-assessment tax forms
And running British trains.

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THE THURSDAY REVIEW

Monsieur Monet, Jr

Jean-Marie Toulgouat grew up surrounded by his great-grandfather's work. Now he too is a painter. But does the influence run any deeper? By Louise Jury

Jean-Marie Toulgouat grew up in one of the most famous gardens in the world. Even those who have never heard of Giverny know the dramatic paintings of water-lilies and the Japanese bridge by Toulgouat's great-grandfather - Claude Monet.

As a child, Toulgouat ran through the walkways which thousands have already booked to survey in canvas form at the Royal Academy in London. He cycled from the lily pond to the house where Monet painted, not far from the one where Toulgouat was born. The scenes which the great impressionist captured in shimmering greens and purples were the surroundings of his youth.

"It was a very nice place as a boy," Toulgouat, now 71, recalls fondly. Then Giverny was a village with some 15 farms where the farmers' sons were Toulgouat's playmates, even as he lived surrounded by works by some of the greatest Impressionist painters - Monet himself actually the young boy's step great-grandfather, Manet, Cézanne.

Now the farms have gone, transport links have diminished the 50-mile distance to Paris ("It's a little bit too close now," he says) and 80,000 people a year pay pilgrimage to see the "original" garden laid down by Monet, then immortalised

by him. "Monet created a world," Toulgouat says. Monet's garden was itself like a canvas. Supported by a staff of six, he cultivated four acres, bringing plants and flowers from as far afield as Japan to create the rich textures and swaths of colour which typify his late paintings. He kept his famous water-lilies safe in greenhouses over the winter.

When he first picked up a paintbrush, his palette was the same as Monet's

These images stayed with Toulgouat into adulthood and, in the Sixties, helped provide detail to the restoration of the gardens, which had fallen into disrepair. An uncle who was a botanist pinpointed plant species, recreating as much of Monet's vision as possible. "The restoration is not bad although it's difficult for a garden to be exactly the same. It's an evolution," he says. Touring the RA exhibition, he surveys with evident pride and affection the 80 works on show, the majority of which were not shown in Monet's lifetime, some of which have not been seen before.

Three hundred or more were left

in his studios in Giverny when he died in 1926, the year before Toulgouat was born. "I played around all these works," he smiles. "It was when I was eight, nine, 10 that I think I began to be impressed by them because I was beginning to understand how difficult it was to paint. It is very important work."

Yet Jean-Marie Toulgouat points out that despite Monet's huge international following today, "nobody" was interested in his late dramatic flowerings for a long time. They were not acclaimed, he says, as earlier works had been. But eventually, two groups of people began to pay attention - the Americans and the Japanese. "Not the French, not the British," he notes.

It is curious listening to Toulgouat speak. He has been so close to Monet all his life you almost forget they never met. He speaks of a man who did not discuss art with his family, apart from his second wife, Alice Hoschede (Toulgouat's great-grandmother). He would say hello to friends in Giverny, but never to those who simply recognised the great artist in the street. When he stayed at the Savoy Hotel in London, painting the scenes now on show at the RA, he loved roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Though his English was not as fluent as his great-grandson's, Monet understood a great deal and loved the theatre.

When Toulgouat first picked up



First impressions: the painter Jean-Marie Toulgouat

Neville Elder

a paintbrush at around the age of seven, even his palette was the same as Monet's because he was guided by his great-aunt Blanche. Monet's step-daughter, who was the only person ever to accompany the master on his painting excursions. "You have to take these kind of colours," she would tell Toulgouat.

During the Second World War, when materials were hard to come by, she even gave the younger artist some of Monet's last tubes of paint.

Their works, however, are quite different. Only in scenes of trees is there any similarity, according to Francis Kyle, the London dealer who has shown Toulgouat for the

last 15 years. Yet both are more popular in Britain than in their native country. With the crowds queuing in London's Piccadilly, Toulgouat notes sadly that the Monet exhibition will not be seen in France.

Jean-Marie Toulgouat at Francis Kyle gallery, London, from 24 May

A rapt repose

CLASSICAL
PHILHARMONIA/
ESCHENBACH
RFH, LONDON

NOW THAT the Philharmonia are officially *The Phil* (Channel 4, Sundays), audiences will inevitably be looking more closely at the individuals who make up the whole. The Philharmonia will have a human face - which has to be good for business. Not that Beethoven, Mozart, and Brahms - their bill of fare on Tuesday last - was anything but good business, with or without a face.

Christoph Eschenbach conducted and Imogen Cooper played, not so much as a soloist but as an honorary member of the ensemble, the last of Mozart's Piano Concertos, No 27 in B-flat, K595. She and Eschenbach, to say nothing of the assembled company, shared confidences in subtle and amazing ways. Cooper's playing was exquisitely weighted, not over-articulate, never over-coloured, but unfailingly responsive to Mozart's mood swings, so that a sudden minor-key darkening might be met with a discreet withdrawal in tone, or the slow movement melody "placed" so as to suggest unfamiliarity. And wonder.

Eschenbach was hugely impressive. In Beethoven's *Leonore* No 3 Overture, the sound of silence stretched the ear for any sign of life in Florestan's dungeon. Tensile pianissimos were used to great colouristic effect, and likewise, the huge triple-forte climax, a single chord flung high and wide as if Amnesty had secured the release of political prisoners everywhere.

Speaking of release, I doubt there was a single person in the Festival Hall who did not share the triumphant inevitability of Brahms' First Symphony as it finally bridged the elusive semitone separating its lowering C minor opening from the tumultuous C major close. Eschenbach excited, urged, and pressed the Philharmonia into some of the very best, and the most personable, playing they've produced in ages. The opening of the symphony was worthy of William Blake, a wash of ascending violins tracing the silver lining through heavy storm clouds. Here was everything you could wish for in a Brahms sound - warmth and amplitude of texture, but with definition and profile and not an ounce of untrimmed fat anywhere.

But that would be Eschenbach putting aside the self-satisfied view of Brahms and revealing more of the radical within. The outer movements acted on the impulse of their harmonic instability, tension built from uncertainty. And where there was repose, there was rapture, too. A most distinguished display: everything to do with making music, not headlines. TV hasn't got to them yet. EDWARD SECKERSON

And all because mother knows best

THE LAST time Sheila Hancock performed in the West End it was as Mrs Lovett in Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, a character who has all the perverted maternal instincts of a Rosemary West. Later this year she is scheduled to play Tomma Rose in the musical *Les Misérables*, a pushy stage mother who could eat Mrs Worthington for breakfast. Meanwhile, in Howard Davies' new, savagely funny, if rather under-powered, production of Gorky's 1906 play, *Vassa*, Hancock plays another monstrous matriarch. Here she assumes the eponymous role of the iron-willed, pre-

revolutionary materfamilias whose determination to cling on to her dying husband's building business for the sake of her family almost makes her the equal of Mother Courage in indomitability.

Hatchet-faced, in grim garb and equipped with a dourly deflating drawl, Hancock's Vassa surveys the family members gathered in her office with a look that would sour milk at 10 paces. There's a comically bleak matter-of-factness in the casual way she remarks how she wishes she had put down at birth the hunchbacked son, whose bitterness has become warped into a fur-

ious slapstick routine in David Tennant's vivid portrayal. Hancock valuably brings out the quieter shades in this anti-heroine: the sensitivities she has had to quell in her fight to stay on top; the heart palpitations; and the puncturing anxieties of a woman terrified that her brother-in-law (a humorously disreputable Ron Cook) is about to pull his money out of the business. The

approach pays off best in the beautifully achieved final scene, where the full tragic ambiguity of the character is released.

The loneliness of this little-loved woman emanates from Hancock like a cold mist. It's pitiable how, having dismissively dispatched her own children, Vassa clutches at the idea of the next generation. She has been caught in capitalism's classic bind: work that should be a means to an end becomes an end in itself, cutting you off from the very loved ones for whose sake you are supposed to be toiling. On the other hand, Hancock could afford to sug-

gest much more forcefully the Ena Sharples aspects of the role: the underlying granite and wilfulness. This is not a characterisation that powers the evening forward.

Despite the Slavic songs, the production sometimes feels about as Russian as *Rutherford & Son*. The cast, however, animate the rancid group dynamics of this ill-assorted clan who behave like a bunch of bemused vultures, circling and colliding into each other.

Nor does Davies play down the gasp-makingly sick comedy of the murderous blackmail that provides a resolution of sorts.

Aisling O'Sullivan is superb as the daughter, Anna, who returns home dripping new-found drop-dead glamour. Her growing realisation that not only is she a hard-boiled chip off the maternal block, but she may one day be the block itself, is expertly judged. From among the rest, Debra Gillett is a hilarious bundle of buttoned-up, bustling censoriousness as Natalya, the daughter-in-law who wants to move and live near a nice army. Come to think of it, given what happened a few years later, that desire is not as daft as it sounds. PAUL TAYLOR

A slice of life at the carvery

NEW song by John Shuttleworth. Sheffield's finest 56-year-old resident organist, is a contradictory experience. Tearing the passing of the ardbord tray from Bounty bars, "Mars of Slough" was as aral and narrow-minded a world view as the show's theme line, "Life is Like a Salad Bar (You Only Get One Visit)", a typical bit of Shuttleworth philosophy. But listen a little harder and you'll hear the raptures to which this warped romantic is given by the smallest detail: the tray made a super bowl mark.

a particularly sturdy shopping list.

COMEDY
JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH
BLOOMSBURY THEATRE
LONDON

It's the quantum theory of character comedy. I'm Alan Partridge succeeded because it was able to expand the King of Chat's ten-upholstered universe. Shuttleworth's talent, on the other hand, is for the detail within the detail: his day job isn't just working at the local drop-in centre, he tells us, it's supervising the ping-pong.

The same wondrously pedantic logic governs the current show, *Ken's Carvery*. It's been

the brainwave of Ken, John's manager, not just to cater for the punters but to lay on the classiest culinary experience he could think of, a carvery. In this respect, Graham Fellows's creation is still a dish best tasted live. Shuttleworth's world first leaked on to Radio 4 in the early Nineties. Though he's still more comfortable there than on television, the last series, *Radio Sheffield* ("serving the Sheffield Region and a little bit further even...") sounded cluttered. Live, Ken and Shuttleworth's wife, Mary, remain as voices off, leaving just John, his leather coat, his snazzy red turtle-neck and, of

course, his beloved Yamaha. It's an affecting sight. In his own way, Shuttleworth craves passion, deploying the more exotic settings on his Yamaha - the rumba, a bit of techno - with abandon. "Save The Whale" ("there are lots of other fish upon which to dine") may be mild but it's heartfelt. Similarly, the thwarted ambition of his Mary, a dinner lady, may sound petty, but he doesn't see it that way. "She was on mixed veg, always wanted to be on swede. But it never happened."

Shuttleworth's tentative yearnings for something out of the ordinary are funnier still

when seen in person. He's only recently been converted to the joys of shower gel, he enthuses, and hasn't yet got over the wide-spread availability of Bombay Mix. However, it's only when you see the startled grimace that accompanies his more florid keyboard workouts that Shuttleworth's inner fires truly reveal themselves.

And what does Ken think? Well, he's a little peeved. Shuttleworth's entitled to one free meal under his contract and he's just devoured the carvery.

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THE VAGINA
MONOLOGUES
KING'S HEAD
LONDON

IT SOUNDS like an uncomfortable experience, doesn't it? Let's be honest. Yes, Eve Ensler's homage to this part of the female anatomy will have the prudish squirming in their seats. But in the end, it is the seating arrangement in the clanny King's Head theatre - which requires most of the audience to sit at right angles to the stage - that causes the most discomfort. The American performer's patchwork quilt of facts and fantasies, memories and nightmares - a "schmushing" together of the testimonies of 200 women she has interviewed over the past three years - leaves you with a surprisingly warm feeling.

If there seems to be a disparity between Ensler's dignified appearance - a Louise Brooks bob, a black evening dress - and her subject matter, by the end of an hour she has convinced you that it's all

in the mind; part of our cultural conditioning. "Vagina never sounds like a word you'd want to say," she grins, her eyes sealing up in mock embarrassment. It's a place akin to the Bermuda Triangle - "nobody ever reports back from there". She lays siege to this wall of silence with a barrage of wit laced with anger, the set behind her flushes shades of purple and crimson.

The show is overflowing with lists compiled from her interviewees: ways of describing "it": a poochie, a peepee, a dignity (dressing it in milk, Armani, taffeta); of letting it do the talking or moaning. The monologues

mostly adopt a quirky tone, but they reveal scarred lives. "The age group between 65 and 75 was the most poignant," she says. Without caricature, she relays the formative experience of a Jewish woman who had barely thought about "down there" since 1953, when an unexpected flood of passion on a car seat elicited revulsion from her first boyfriend.

Apart from a vagina-worshipping guy called Bob, men don't come out of this too well: abusive fathers, obsessive husbands, and most chillingly, soldier-rapists. But the *Vagina Monologues* are not, in the main, about pointing fingers; they are about showing both sexes where to put them. Ensler leaves you hoping that familiarity will breed a little more respect.

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ANTHONY QUINN

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
DIRECTOR: JOHN MADDEN
STARRING: JOSEPH FIENNES,
GWYNETH PALTROW,
GEOFFREY RUSH
123 MINS

Full of sound and flurry, *Shakespeare in Love* could be several different films: a romp; a romance; a toast to the theatre; a gleeful satire on art and commerce; and a sprightly exploration of the creative temperament. That it manages to be all of these and more is tribute to a film-making team that rattles through the emotional gears with a confidence and wit almost unprecedented in historical drama.

"Historical" is pushing it a bit. While set in London in 1593, the film isn't much concerned with ideas of authenticity or accuracy. So little is known of William Shakespeare's life at this or any other time that the conventions of the biopic are irrelevant. Yet instead of being constrained by this lack of biographical material, the film-makers seem to have been liberated by it. The screenplay, written by Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman, posits the notion of Shakespeare as an indigent hack writer who didn't yet know the extent of his own gifts. We first see young Will (Joseph Fiennes) strutting and fretting around London's squalid streets, importuned by theatre manager Philip Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush) for news of his latest play, *Romeo and Ethel, The Pirate's Daughter*. Even genius has to begin somewhere.

Unfortunately, Will has writer's block – and possibly something worse. As he explains to his therapist (who times sessions with an hourglass), "the proud tower of my genius has collapsed": writing, he says, is "like trying to pick a lock with a wet herring". Just when the *double entendres* of another genre – *Carry On Shakespeare*, anyone? – become distantly audible, Will meets his muse: Viola de Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow) is an affluent young woman who longs for a wild, ungovernable love, but instead is about to be married alive to a loathsome aristocrat, Lord Wessex (Colin Firth). She also desperately wants to be an actress, and since women are forbidden on the Elizabethan stage, she conceals her blonde tresses beneath a boyish crop, pastes on moustache and beard, and auditions successfully for the role of Romeo.



High poetic intensity meets (sexless) Anglo-American allure: Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow provide the dazzle to varnish Stoppard's wit

It's a subterfuge as unlikely as any dreamed up by the Bard, yet our disbelief is willingly suspended as the film waxes in comical and romantic vitality. The director, John Madden, whose previous movie, *Mrs Brown*, recounted the autumnal love between Queen Victoria and her ghillie, works much quicker here: no sooner has Will uncovered his leading player's real identity than he and Viola are making out on her four-poster and mouthing passionate declarations that feel, in a word, Shakespearean. It's love all right; what's more, it's love to inspire the playwright to vertiginous new heights of poetic expression.

This is where *Shakespeare in Love* feels at its most daring, and most ingenious: in

one scene the line between life and art melts exquisitely as the lovers, whispering ardently to each other off-stage, are seamlessly revealed in the same attitude on-stage. It's remarkable not only in tracing the contours of what would eventually become *Romeo and Juliet*, but in speculating on the haphazard nature of literary composition. At one point we find Will in a tavern, slumped in dismay at his latest creative impasse; then his friend and rival Kit Marlowe (Rupert Everett) casually sketches out a new plot, and Will gratefully adopts it. As with much else in the film, it may not be fact, but it's true.

This sense of writerly improvisation is surely down to Tom Stoppard, who rum-

maged through the vaults of *Hamlet* in his *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. That play's prankish, irreverent comedy is alive and well here, both in anachronistic dabs and in the larger resonances between the infighting and philistinism of the Elizabethan theatre, and our own times. The parallels with Hollywood are unmistakable: when one theatre manager identifies a winning formula – "Comedy, love, and a bit with a dog" – you can imagine a studio mogul absently nodding in approval. I liked the casting of Ben Affleck as the egomaniacal "star" actor, hoodwinked into performing by Will's promise of calling the play *Mercurio*. As for excluding women from decent roles, not much has changed.

The film's satiric playfulness will certainly give audiences a lift, though what will raise the roof is the more obvious dazzle of its two leads. I've always found Fiennes too studied and self-regarding before; here he offsets high poetic intensity with a careless athleticism, and it's very engaging. Paltrow, an American-English rose, is an alluring if not altogether erotic presence; my main complaint is that she looks absolutely nothing like a boy, even under the cover of facial fuzz. They are supported by a democratic and talented ensemble, ranging from dependable character actors such as Jim Carter, Tom Wilkinson and Imelda Staunton, to comedians such as the two *Fast Show* stalwarts,

Simon Day and Mark Williams. Judi Dench impresses as a shrewd and faintly terrifying Elizabeth, though the idea of the monarch arriving incognito for the first night is at least one dramatic liberty too far.

Shakespeare in Love, it hardly needs saying, will not find favour with the purist conversely, some of its more lyrical flourishes may not please the crowd. Yet it almost defies you not to have fun. Just as the staging of Will's *Romeo and Juliet* totters on the brink of catastrophe, there is so much in the tone and texture of John Madden's film that could have sent it crashing down to earth. That it stays triumphantly aloft is as heartening an experience as recent cinema has provided.

ALSO SHOWING

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY JAMES TOBACK (15) ■ STEPMOM CHRIS COLUMBUS (12) ■ VERY BAD THINGS PETER BERG (18)
A MAN AND A WOMAN CLAUDE LELOUCH (PG)

THIS WEEK'S big theme: monogamy. James Toback's *Two Girls and a Guy*, shot in 11 days, promises heavy artillery but ends up a light skirmish. Two women stand on the doorstep of a SoHo loft waiting for their boyfriends to return. Desultory chat leads to confession, which in turn leads to discovery: they are waiting for one and the same man, an actor named Blake Allen. The feistier of the two, Lou (Natascha Gregson Wagner), breaks into his apartment and buzzes in Carla (Heather Graham); together they discuss him and wonder how long he's been duping them.

By the time the guy shows up, you're braced for something dreadful. The film certainly delivers on this: he's played by Robert Downey Jr. Once Blake has recovered from the shock of seeing his duplicity exposed, he spends the next hour trying to weasel his way out of trouble. The women don't hold back. As Lou tells him: "You are a lying, mugging, misogynistic, unemployable, short, loft inheriting, piece-of-shit fraud." Blake: "I'm short now, too, huh?"

While Toback tosses out the occasionally smart line, the film as a whole feels underwritten and meandering: there's plenty of rage here, but it's boxed into something resembling an actors' workshop. Downey has been let off the leash for this one, and practically tears himself in half as the egregious two-timer. His best efforts, however, can't rescue a scenario starved of oxygen and, come to think of it, plausibility.



"Two Girls and a Guy"

Stepmom is Chris Columbus's latest homily, following *Mrs Doubtfire* and *Nine Months*, on the travails of parenting. This one's a three-way tussle between Jackie, a divorcee mom (Susan Sarandon), her ex-husband (Ed Harris), and his new girlfriend, Isabel (Julia Roberts), who's been having trouble bonding with Jackie and her two kids. You have to feel for Jackie, who must endure the galling realization that her ex's squeeze is kind and beautiful and good-humoured; she also happens to be an absurdly glamorous photographer – the sort who breezes late into a shoot, calls out "That's a wrap" after 10 minutes and stands back to receive the plaudits – which gives you some idea about this film's grip on credibility.

Easy to understand why Roberts has a producer credit here, but Sarandon too? She's playing a tiresome whinger who's turned her children into spoilt brats. Then the penny drops: Jackie has cancer, and spends the second half of the movie bravely stifling tears, growing spectre-thin and hand-

ling out bite-size slices of Cracker Barrel wisdom. That it's mostly set in the fabulous opulence of Jackie's enormous clapboard mansion is par for the course. As *Meet Joe Black* recently demonstrated, Hollywood prefers the dying to maintain impeccable taste in home furnishings. Chris Columbus directs as if he's handling a moral diagram: *Stepmom* is so full of understanding it made me want to throw up.

Peter Berg, a first-time director, opens a thick vein of black humour in *Very Bad Things*, the story of a bachelor party that gets grotesquely out of hand. A bridegroom, Kyle (Jon Favreau), and four middle-class jock friends check into a Las Vegas hotel, and proceed to whoop it up on booze and cocaine (Christian Slater, as one of the party, must be thanking his stars – he now gets paid for doing all the stuff he's been convicted for). The mood of piggish debauchery suddenly goes very sober when their romp ends with a call-girl dead on the bathroom floor; a security guard who discovers the body is then beaten to death. Having dismembered the corpses and buried them in the desert, the five friends head back home for Kyle's wedding.

The film then sits tight and waits for the first one to crack, though by this point you may find it difficult to care. Aiming for the giddy gruesomeness of *Shallow Grave*, Berg piles one sadistic thrill on top of another without noticing how flat and charmless the whole enterprise feels. His basic play is to show five men yelling

hysterically into each other's face, and hope that we'll find it funny. The cast do themselves no favours – Daniel Stern, required to do most of the freak-ing out, has fallen a long way since his wonderful turn in *Diner*. Cameron Diaz, a natural with light comedy, is stuck with an appalling role as the whiny, wedding-obsessed fiancée. Hard to know what on earth persuaded her: it surely wasn't the puerile, mindless script. Claude Lelouch's *A Man and a Woman* looks diminished since its release in 1966. Irony has kicked out innocence, and modern audiences will probably snigger at what now

seem the corny staples of romantic French movies: a wide beach, a dashing fellow in a sports car, a train station swathed in mist. Advertising, if not cinema, colonised these images long ago. Yet how to resist a pairing as photogenic as Anouk Aimée and Jean-Louis Trintignant? She plays the widow, haunted and gravely beautiful; he is the racing driver smitten by her. (His ratty handsomeness recalls something of Bogart). As I sighed at this flimsy confection, I couldn't take my eyes off either of them.

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Steamy nights in Baltimore

The director of *Pink Flamingos* and *Serial Mom* has visions of Mary Bell's daughter dancing in his head. He'd like to introduce his dad to gay sex. Yet some things still give John Waters the heebie-jeebies. By Charlotte O'Sullivan

One minute into the interview and John Waters is already talking about sex. I've thrown out a general question about the perils of fame. "You can't have had sex!" he exclaims. "You know, if you have a back-room job or one-night stand, the guy goes and tell newspapers about it." He grins and twinges his neat little foot. He is David-Niven-dapper: he has a shiny briefcase by his side. "Or, worse, you're in the middle of doing it and they say 'I love *Female Trouble*.' I can't have any more sex any more! It doesn't work!"

Blimey, I think, this interview's going to be easy. Waters: the 53-year-old ex-Catholic homosexual who put the corn into porn and never used a woman where a transvestite would do. He's floated effortlessly into the mainstream with films such as *Hairspray*, *Cry Baby* and *Serial Mom*, but never lived down (or up) a leading lady gobbling dog poo (1972's *Pink Flamingos*), or a rape by rosary beads (1971's *Multiple Maniacs*). All the "bad" stuff you see in his movies is probably all based on his life! This man has no inhibitions! And yet the point of his story is that privacy matters. Hmm...

Water's latest film, *Pecker*, is also about privacy. Its central character (Edward Rurling) takes photographs that capture the spontaneous truth, but when he becomes famous, it has consequences for his subjects—suddenly they've got nowhere to hide. Waters thinks that's a horrible place to be. "People link me to the *Jerry Springer Show*, which is wrong. My movies are about people who wouldn't go on *Jerry Springer*. My subjects," he says with a proud smile (Waters, by the way, has sweet, yellowing teeth), "have always been Baltimore people, and they don't want people looking into their lives."

And yet Waters, as he admits, loves gossip (his nephew recently admitted taking ecstasy - "I didn't tell his mother!" he says gleefully). In the past, he's said: "I like movie stars who like to have their picture taken, not the ones who hide from the press." And his movies ran the point home: *Female Trouble*, Dawn Davenport kills to become a celebrity while in *Pink Flamingos*, fabulous Babe Johnson murders two people and forces a group of journalists to watch.

Clearly, Waters is in two minds about the value of cloaking oneself away. The question is, why? I remind him that, in 1994, I sent him a questionnaire on behalf of another newspaper asking what three things he'd like for Christmas. Top of the list was Mary Bell's address. "So I can send her a Christmas card." Waters has long been obsessed with killers, from Manson to John Wayne Gacy, but Bell — who at this point was very much out of the public eye — clearly stood out for him. No need to ask whether he bought the Gita Sereny book. Of course he did.

"I don't want to exploit her," Waters says carefully. "I don't even want to exploit her in this article." But he's fascinated by the fact that, until the fuss surrounding Sereyny's book, Mary Bell's daughter knew nothing about her mother's identity. His lip grows wet before my eyes. "I do wonder what her



John Waters: 'It's spooky to hear anyone having sex, even in a hotel room next door'

And, long term, it seems to have worked. His father recently went to see Pecker. "My father had to think about the term 'T-bagging,' where one man shoves, or dunks, his scrotum into the face of another. Waters lets out an ecstatic asthmatic laugh. "Daddy had no desire for that to be in his consciousness." But what about the other way round – does Waters ever wonder what his folks got up to in bed? He looks appalled, panic-stricken, and literally crosses his Twilight legs. "My mother is an Anglophile, she worships Queen Elizabeth. Do people think about the Queen having sex? They don't," I persist. Maybe she and his dad were sneaky sex-addicts. Waters grins through gritted teeth: "Well, that's good. If they were, they got away with it!"

I'm astonished by this taboo-buster's discomfort. Isn't that the whole point of films like *Serial Mom*, to show that beneath pristine suburbia lies a hotbed of rage and sex? There's that great scene where Kathleen Turner initiates such noisy sex with her husband that her horrified kids can hear in their bedrooms. It's the kids who end up looking uptight. "Oh no!" he squeals. "It's spooky to hear anyone having sex, even in a hotel room next door, moaning and screaming—it's creepy. No matter how close you are, no one wants to hear *that*." But that's precisely what people want to hear. That's why, when Waters has "bad" sex, he has to worry about it ending up in the tabloids. That's why we go to the movies. It's called prurience and/or healthy curiosity. But no, suddenly Waters wants to deny such an urge, wants us to respect "privacy" all over again.

You begin to wonder whether this tension surrounding desire hasn't affected his own love life. Handsome, charming, there's something at once childlike and prematurely old about Waters, something a tiny bit sad. He's always asserting his homosexuality ("I'm never coming in – not unless the Virgin Mother pays a visit!"), and yet there's no evidence of partners. It's women he talks about. Waters tells me about his wealthy maternal grandmother (the Catholic one, who'd have the bishop over to the house to say Mass). She was widowed very young (ie she was celibate for most of her life), but the "unspoken thing" about her, Waters believes, was that: "She liked the company of gay men. She used to call them 'the fellows'."

Were these relationships enough for her? Waters frowns. "I still think that a gay man and a straight woman can have the closest friendship there is. I do." Is that true for him? "Yes," he says, his face stiff with unease. His best friend's kids, he says, "feel almost like my kids. I would be a terrible father, but I'm a good uncle".

The gay man as uncle. The gay man with a preference for naughty sex, "once in a while, when I'm on the road". It all sounds so lonely, so Catholic, so Baltimore, is that the real secret about John Waters—that sex and friendship are utterly distinct in his mind? Or is it his pretend secret, one that cleverly allows him to maintain his privacy? If so, then to paraphrase Waters himself: well, that's good—he's got away with it!

VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS



Love and Death on Long Island (15) available to rent now.

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The 20th century is a mystery to Giles De'Ath. The 21st century, the age of British writer shudders at the thought of a typewriter and can just about grasp the necessity of owning a VCR to watch a video, but does one really require a television set as well? But then De'Ath wanders into the cinema to see a E.M. Forster adaptation and mistakenly blunders into Hatpotsville College II. The hapless writer is about to leave when the heavenly vision of Ronnie Bostock, (Jason Priestley), the teen-throb star, roots him to the spot. He decides he must meet his love at Bostock's Long Island home...

Gilbert Adair couldn't have hoped for a better adaptation. While the director, Richard Kwietniowski, lets De'Ath's epiphany set a gentle pace, he sends up Bostock's teensploitation schlock superbly and catches wickedly the incongruity of De'Ath's secret passion. An understated gem.

Johnny Guitar (PG)
available to buy, £5.99
Nicholas Ray tears up every convention in this gripping 1954 Western. For starters, Johnny Guitar (Sterling Hayden) is a pawn in a feud between the entrepreneur Joan Crawford and the landowner Mercedes McCambridge, and in a neat twist, it's not the parochial cowboys we're asked to root for, but the thoroughly modern matriarch.

Which is to say nothing of the cross-dressing. Crawford is rarely seen out of her jeans, and you're left in no doubt as to who wears the trousers. Not a scene goes by without a bitchy set-to, but it's the men who get really caty: Guitar and a rival (Scott Brady) argue incessantly over Crawford, while the women's conflict, itself tainted by sexual jealousy, is much darker. All this, and a Martin Scorsese introduction to boot.

Digital monsters? No fear

Why are computer-generated special effects still so unconvincing? By Matthew Sweet

WHAT IS it about Computer Generated Images that switches off the critical faculties? When Antz opened last year, reviewers fell over each other to be amazed by it, and the PR people had their pick of gushing superlatives - "Astounding! Breathtaking!", that kind of thing. A Bug's Life - another CGI feature about an ant colony - opens in London next week, and the notices will be even better. They've already gone mad about it in the United States: "A masterpiece," raved *The Wall Street Journal*. "No film has ever created a more palpable fantasy world."

A Bug's Life is the product of four years' work by Pixar and

Disney – the collaboration that produced *Toy Story*, the world's first all-CGI movie. In financial terms, the film has already squished *Antz* – it took \$46.5m (£28m) in its first two days, breaking box-office records for the Thanksgiving weekend. True, its animation is furiously inventive, but the real secret of its success is the imaginative script. In truth, *A Bug's Life* still looks like an electronic technology incursion into a physical-and-chemical medium. Like *Antz* and *Toy Story*, it has a visual texture that, after 90 minutes of staring in the dark, gives you a slight eye-ache in the way that *Lady and the Tramp* never did. The CGI feature is

often hailed as the future of cinema, but it has a long way to go before it produces an aesthetically satisfying experience.

This becomes most noticeable when digital images are combined with live action. In *Harlow* and *Jackie*, a scene in which Emily Watson acts her socks off performing the last stages of Jacqueline du Pré's multiple sclerosis is horribly undermined by the phoney digital hurricane outside. And James Cameron's *Titanic* may have pitched and rolled like a real ship, but the vessel was even less substantial than the script. It looked like a moving version of a Thirties Art Deco P&O poster – only with sickly

New Age add-ons such as a flotilla of fake dolphins.

Indeed, CGI represents some of the shortcomings of more old-fashioned trickery. Like the Daleks before them, computer-generated monsters abhor rough terrain, preferring to glide across smooth, uncomplicated surfaces: the adolescent Godzilla who patrolled the corridors of Madison Square Gardens; *Jurassic Park*'s raptors, who loved tripping across kitchen floor-tiles; those spider-crab creatures in *Lost in Space*, whose legs seemed to float an inch above the metal floors of their spaceship. Directors often choose to sidestep this problem by using CGI to create en-

see it dating before your eyes. "If every film isn't better than

"If every film isn't better than the last one, the audience get up and leave the theatre saying, 'that sucks,'" says Heather Kenyon, editor-in-chief of the Hollywood-based industry journal, *Animation World Network*. "The comment I heard most often about *Godzilla* was that there was nothing new in it, nothing that they hadn't already seen in *Jurassic Park*, *The Lost World*. These things become passé in a fortnight."

However, according to Kenyon, the rubber puppet dinosaur is due for a comeback. "The smart people have realised that we have a brand, an organisation that can create a quality that CGI can't replicate," she argues. It's a digital recognition that digital technology alone cannot completely replace physical effects techniques. Jack Kong was here, just as a junk of latex, yet he and Fay Wray formed one of the great romances of cinema history. And though it's difficult not to giggle when Susan Penhaligon gets flapped at by a glass fibre pterodactyl in *The Land That Time Forgot*, at least the scene implies that she might have got a nasty jab if the puppeteer had shoved it at her too enthusiastically. The digital Godzilla nosed no such threat.

Of course, CGI has not yet evolved into its most efficient form. But that only makes things worse — you can



“ONE OF THE BEST BRITISH
FILMS OF THE DECADE”

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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& GRIFFITHS
DONT GET AN
OSCAR
NOMINATION,
I'LL EAT MY OBOE"
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Carry on nursing, please

We need nurses, but it seems nobody wants to be one. Except a new breed of highly articulate graduates. By Rachel Thackray

A recent shortage of nurses in Birmingham hospitals caused one manager to lament, "We are all out recruiting like crazy, and we have taken on 100 from overseas." A dearth of National Health Service nurses is nothing new, of course. But this year's winter crisis has exposed the lack of slack in the system as never before - with an estimated 13,000 vacancies nationwide and horror stories about emergency cover.

Indeed, NHS trusts have launched recruitment drives in countries such as Finland, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia in sheer desperation. And while £21bn is to be spent on improving the NHS, agency nurse cover still costs £192m a year, plus £41m to advertise for recruits.

So why the lack of British nurses? The obvious answer is image. Modern nursing simply isn't a serious career option for those with intelligence, self-motivation and initiative; more a tenure of life-long, low-level drudgery. Or is it?

Graduates who have stuck out the training period and are about to enter the profession seem to be more positive and driven about their chosen career than nurses have ever been.

In addition, they are highly articulate, a quality perhaps less marked in previous nursing generations. They attest to the fact that it is possible to get job satisfaction and to carve an ambitious career path despite the problems, lack of funding and prejudices.

Their enthusiasm is backed up by the efforts of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in promoting an intelligent approach by and to practitioners. Ten years ago, nurse education was moved from the arena of hospitals into that of higher education: 90 per cent of nurses now study for the Project 2000 diploma and 10 per cent take a degree course, currently four years long but soon to be reduced to three. That shift has led to better trained, more capable and empowered nurses - not theoretically minded disasters, says the RCN. Nurses in training now spend half their time learning practical skills, up from 40 per cent.

Craig Kirby, who is sabbatical officer for the RCN's student association and part way through a four-year nursing degree at Oxford, says: "Nursing isn't just routines any more. We've not just learnt to do things the way it's always done. That's in the best interests of the patients, because they know that nurses have the expertise to explain to them and advocate for them."

Julia Skilton, 22, who gained four A-levels and is in the final year of her nursing degree at King's College,



The demands of modern medicine mean that nurses are no longer just doctors' little helpers: they have more responsibility and need to be better trained than ever before

Daily Record

London, agrees. "It's now a very autonomous job and you have an awful lot of responsibility. It's been extremely academic. We do communication studies, psychology, sociology; it's a holistic course, and everything's thrown in there."

Even those with a less academic bent are not debarred from entry. The Government recently almost doubled the number of nursing degree places, and there are alternative routes into the profession through NVQs and cadet placements, which are aimed at 16-year-old school-leavers.

"These days, it's much more dynamic and forward," says Mr Kirby. "Nurses lead projects and schemes." He points to the fact that the Government has made a

push towards a more autonomous system of community health care.

"Every other health-care professional has a degree base, and I don't think nurses deliver any less dynamic care," he says.

In fact, in the rest of Europe and North America, higher education for nurses has been well established for years. Consequently, the Department of Health has finally admitted that an emphasis on "the intellectual challenge of nursing" and on nurses as "autonomous practitioners with the authority to make decisions" was needed.

The belief that "it requires nothing but a disappointment in love, the want of an object, or incapacity for other things, to turn a woman into a good nurse", as noted by Florence

Nightingale, is now as laughable as the idea that a stock-market analyst can train himself by using a shop till.

Nevertheless, problems in recruiting British nurses are not just about incorrect assumptions. The nursing student drop-out rate some- times reaches 25 per cent - which, says Mr Kirby, is due to two major factors. One is financial hardship and the accumulation of debt, with no prospect of well paid work. Student nurses at King's College, for example, do a practical two-month unpaid placement after the summer term.

Julia Skilton is uncompromising, but points out: "The problem comes at the beginning of August because not many people are willing to employ you for a couple of months." Newly qualified D grade nurses

start out on £12,855; if they move up a grade, they can expect £14,705.

Students also become discouraged by early exposure to others' low morale during clinical practice.

"Unfortunately, as it stands at the moment, it's not always a very positive experience," says Craig Kirby. "They are being exposed to this very early on, and they're not going to want to stay."

The RCN hopes to help by lobbying to improve practical skills - piloting an intensive skills training period immediately before registration - and, as in other professions, to ensure that new recruits are mentored successfully.

"Trusts and universities need to develop closer working links, and trusts in particular need to take

more ownership of the students on placement with them. However, as a result of the shortage of nurses, many trusts are now paying lip service to the idea of a structured preceptorship, as experienced nurses struggle to cope with their own clinical workload," comments a recent RCN briefing.

Kirby believes that more structured training would also help. "Having a career pathway is what's going to keep people in nursing - that they do see a step forward and the pay would reflect that," he says.

Long working hours, low pay and lack of ongoing training are off-putting, agree bright graduates. When they can earn big bucks in management consultancy, why

should they slave away for little thanks on a hospital ward? As it is, one in four of the nation's nursing workforce tops up basic earnings with agency shifts. This issue is Julia Skilton's "main concern" - and she feels that NHS trusts are burying their heads in the sand.

"The trusts have had these advertising incentives. They've wanted to know our views. They give us gym membership, but what we need is adequate pay. They say 'Come and work for us, you'll have a great night-life.' But that's not the point. We need crèches, things like that. If you're trying to look after a home, you don't have time for night-life."

But at least she can be confident that job security will never be a problem in the nursing profession.

An Englishman in Brazil

HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

The problem
My son left university over five years ago with a 2:1 in Spanish studies and high hopes. He accepted a part-time post teaching English in Sao Paulo, Brazil, but before long he landed himself a job as a reporter on a highly-respected financial newspaper - interviewing, among others, Kenneth Clarke and Malcolm Rifkind.

A year later, he became assistant editor and then managing editor on the news desk, commanding a salary of approximately £45,000. He never intended to stay in Brazil, however, and is now unsure about how to start again in England. He is naturally cautious of the idea of leaving a challenging and well-paid job - and is realistic enough to know that he is unlikely to receive a similar salary here.

He is now fluent in both Portuguese and Spanish and enjoys using these languages. He also enjoys journalism, but is open-minded about changing career course if necessary. What should he do? Have his job prospects improved because of his wide experience in Brazil, or do they count for little in England? Should he risk coming home without a job waiting, or should he be now applying for jobs over the Internet?

MRS J FOX, LONDON

The solutions
James Roberts, Deputy Foreign Editor, *The Independent*, says: Your son has progressed quickly in a challenging environment and this should count strongly in his favour when he returns to England. However, he must prepare the ground for

his return properly, and ensure he approaches organisations that will value what he has to offer. If he wants to continue working on newspapers, he should not burn his bridges in Brazil, but take perhaps a month's leave in England and contact the Foreign Editor of every national broadsheet newspaper. He should bring examples of his work, and be prepared - hopefully over lunch, but perhaps in a hurried 10 minutes squeezed into his contact's day - to give an account of himself and his experiences that would show what an asset he would be on a Foreign Desk. He should also consider the Business pages.

If he chooses to come back without a job, he should at least have a good set of contacts and recommendations. He may not get an offer of a staff job, but a contract. If it is what he wants, he should take it. This can lead to the offer of a staff job if he performs well, and when company circumstances allow. I would have thought a reasonable salary would be £30,000 to £35,000.

Charles Paterson of Charles Paterson Search & Selection (0171-493 8631), says:

A good way of obtaining full-time work on national newspapers is to start by doing freelance shifts on several papers - and if you look in BRAD (British Rate Advertising Data) at your local library, it lists major national, regional and financial newspapers. You could then ring on behalf of your son and get the names of the editor, and news and financial editors. Your son should then send his CV with cuttings, translated into English, to the relevant editors. You could help by following up the CV on the telephone

and make appointments for your son. He could register with Media NetSelect (Editorial) 17 Woodstock Street, London W1R 1HE 0171-629 2139, or visit their website, <http://www.mousetrapmedia.com>, for editorial positions. Look in the UK Press Gazette and broadsheet newspapers: *The Independent* on Tuesday and *The Guardian* on Monday are particularly good.

Angela Phillips, lecturer in journalism, Goldsmiths College, University of London, says:

Your son should certainly check out the specialist business and financial press where job competition is less fierce than in newspapers. He can research the field from Brazil (with your help) and then fire off letters and a CV to everything that looks interesting, together with copies of the newspaper he works on. Even if it is not in English, it will give prospective employers a "feel" for the kind of publication he is working on. Then he should take some leave, come over here and exploit every contact he has who knows anyone in the business, as well as making his own appointments. If nothing comes up immediately, he will at least have made personal contact. Once back in Brazil, he needs to keep those contacts alive - perhaps by offering freelance stories until something comes up.

INTERVIEWS BY

CARMEN MIDDLEDITCH

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Middleditch, Fast Track, Features, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail: c.middleditch@independent.co.uk

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

MCDONALD'S

Age: 25 years in the UK

History: The first US restaurant opened in Des Plaines, Illinois, in 1955, and in 1974, McDonald's Golden Arches Restaurants Ltd was set up in the UK as a joint venture between the US restaurant chain and two businessmen, one of whom was British. By 1983, McDonald's Corporation was the sole owner of the UK branches. The price of a Big Mac has quadrupled since the early days: from 45p to £1.84.

Address: Headquarters are in Oak Brook, near Chicago; UK head office is in East Finchley; regional offices in Glasgow, Salford and Sutton Coldfield.

Ambience: Offices are open-plan - bright, airy, and friendly. The only person in the company to have an office door is the chairman, "but it's always open". Operations management use a hot-desking system.

Vital statistics: The first UK restaurant was the 3,000th branch, and there are now more than 33,000 in 110 countries serving 38 million customers. The UK's restaurants employ 38,233 restaurant staff, 2,746 managers and 679 office staff. In addition, more than 12,000 work for McDonald's franchised restaurants, which make up 26 per cent of the UK total. Total sales in 1997 came to £1,088bn. This year, the company hopes to create 5,000 new jobs with 100 new restaurants.

Lifestyle: According to a spokeswoman, "there's no limit to how far you can progress".



within two years of starting, you could be running a restaurant with a turnover of a million quid and a staff of more than 60. Trainee business managers may also get to assist with opening new restaurants: 30 from the United Kingdom are on secondment in countries including South Africa, Iceland, and Pakistan.

Easy to get into? No: of last year's 9,900 graduate applicants for the business management trainee scheme, just 7 per cent were hired. No specific degree is required, but candidates should be "people" people. "Organisational skills, planning, decision-making, teamwork,

leadership and communications are important," says a spokeswoman. For those who want to be accountants with the company, it's even harder to get in: 200 people apply for just two places, although you don't need an accountancy degree to get in. For application details for both schemes, call 0181-700 7000.

Glittering alumni: Alan Shearer and David Platt are the company's current television representatives.

Pay: Trainee managers start at £14,000 (plus regional weighting), plus benefits. Restaurant managers earn from £18,000 to £29,000.

Training: The company is accredited with the nationally recognised "Investors in People" award. The Management Training Centre in East Finchley is the national facility, providing training for around 2,500 managers per year.

Facilities: Subsidised lunch is offered at all offices and East Finchley and Salford offices have on-site health centres.

Who's the boss? Chief Executive is Andrew Taylor, who rose through the ranks having joined as a Management trainee in 1979. Chairman is Paul Preston.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

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The Secretary of State for Education and Employment invites applications for the post of ACDET Chair and Committee member. Both positions are unpaid. ACDET is an Advisory Body sponsored by the Department for Education and Employment. Members are people with disabilities, employers, and representatives of trade unions and disability organisations. It advises Ministers and officials on:

- securing equality of participation in employment, self employment and training opportunities for disabled people, in particular those with significant impairments;
- recruitment, promotion and retention of disabled employees and support services covering their employment, self employment, careers advice and training;
- research on programmes and services;
- the effectiveness of DfEE funded labour market interventions for helping disabled people.

The CHAIRPERSON will:

- oversee the effective and efficient discharge of ACDET functions;
- act as the principal point of contact with Ministers and other interested organisations;
- represent ACDET and its objectives publicly.

APPLICANTS should have:

- ability to manage and lead a team to ensure it works well and achieves results;
- credibility with organisations of or for disabled people;
- proven knowledge, interest and commitment to promoting effective employment and training opportunities for disabled people.

The Chair and Committee Member posts are unpaid but relevant expenses will be paid. Successful candidates will be appointed for 3 years and attend 4 - 5 meetings a year. They are expected to attend additional meetings and events in any year, particularly the Chair in a representative role.

For further information and an application form please send a postcard with your name/address and an indication of which post(s) you are interested in to:

JOHN LYNCH, DfEE LEVEL 5, CAXTON HOUSE, 6-12 TOTTHILL STREET, LONDON SW1H 9NA. Closing date: 22 February 1999

Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities, people from ethnic minority groups and women.

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For details and an application form, send an A4 SAE (49p stamp) to: Caroline O'Donoghue, LMCA, Unit 212, 16 Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ, marked MSM or FA.

Closing dates: February 10th 1999 (MSM), February 17th 1999 (FA). LMCA is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer.



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- For an application form and information pack please contact: Gemma McCall, Environmental Services Directorate, Brent House, 349 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6SZ.
- Tel: 0181 937 5304.
- Closing date: 15 February 1999.

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Regeneration for all

Urban Forum is a small national voluntary organisation set up in 1994 to promote the interests of community and voluntary groups in urban policy, especially regeneration. All posts offered are two or three year contracts, renewable subject to funding.

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35 hours Salary Package c £25,000

Your goal is to increase involvement of Urban Forum members in our policy. Key Roles will include developing urban and regional policy initiatives, especially regeneration. You will lead policy consultations, organise events, conduct research and manage projects. You will manage budgets, represent the Forum externally and produce briefings. A degree level qualification or three years senior experience of policy analysis and development is required together with communication skills and a good knowledge of regeneration.

Information Officer

17.5 hours Salary Package c£12,000

You will manage and develop Urban Forum information and communication technology systems. Key roles include design, writing and production of a monthly journal, publications and conducting forum relations with the press and media. You will develop web sites and channels of electronic communication. At least three years experience is required of design, writing, editing and producing publications, press liaison and dealing with printers. Knowledge of relevant software applications is need with good communication skills.

Application forms (no CVs) available from: Urban Forum, 4 Beaufort Court, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4A 3DF. Completed applications to be received by Friday 5th February. Interviews will be held week beginning February 15th. Urban Forum is committed to equal opportunities.



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THURSDAY TELEVISION

THE THURSDAY REVIEW
The Independent 28 January 1999



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

"A LOT OF PEOPLE take an instant dislike to me," Corinne said, bemused. "...and I don't know why because I'm only doing a job." There was ample evidence in last night's Inside Story (BBC1) to support her view that people don't like her — at one point, a man slunk past her with a sniggered "See you, sir." "He doesn't like me," Corinne added, to put paid to any ambiguity.

It can't help that Corinne's job is being a halfie, selling cars and three-piece suits to pay off council-tax bills in the Leeds area — as she admitted herself, nobody is happy when the halfie calls. But Corinne did herself less than justice when she said she was only doing a job; it's a job in which she takes a lively satisfaction. "I meet a lot of arrogant people... and we knock them down a peg or two."

Robert Burns once expressed a wish that some "Pover" the effie wedgie us to see ourselves as others see us", which probably seemed quite reasonable at the time, but didn't take into account the rise of the television documentary. Now practically anybody can have all their clothes spread out in front of them, and in front of a few million other people who really don't have to know any of this, and you would have to be remarkably thick-skinned to put up with an easy experience.

Still, after seeing Corinne in "The Ballads Are Coming", I have to admit the possibility that thick-skinned is exactly what she is.

Supporting cast isn't, though. Corinne might have been able to pick up one or two pointers from Richard Taylor and Ian Stuart's film as to just why it is that people don't like her. To begin with, she is an aggressive operator, at least compared with Mark, her domestic as well as her business partner. Mark had been to one address they visited in last night's film 14 times before, each time held knocked on the door, waited a bit and gone away. Corinne waited no time; she pulled out an extending ladder, climbed up it and tapped on the bedroom windows with the hammer she had brought with her. She could probably get away with it if her manner was a little more soothing, if she worked harder on the smile-talk. Unfortunately, she regarded "I'm coming in your house and seizing your goods" as an acceptable conversational opening. Over

the years, the couple have been attacked with hammers, threatened with shooting, their van has been kicked, and Mark was once assaulted by a one-legged man. "I'm a person," he added, as if that explained something.

One thing about Corinne, though: she didn't give much sympathy but she didn't ask for any either. At her home, the camera lingered on her collection of ceramic kitchen-knives — little clusters of green and blue ladders and bunnies and later we were taken to see her singing Patsy Cline to a karaoke machine. She didn't deserve to be patronised like that.

Blood on the Carpet (BBC3) continued to provide an acceptable alternative to badger-baiting and throwing Christians to the lions. Last week we got a morally tale that anybody could understand — mean, rich old Hagen-Dazs forced to cry "Uncle" by badly disguised Ben and Jerry. This week, sympathies were more evenly divided. "The Prodigy Horror Show" followed the stormy relationship between Elizabeth Darnley, who designed Diana's wedding dress, and Shant Ahmed, the multi-millionaire entrepreneur behind the Blagden. When her business sectors went bust, she asked him if he would be interested in taking over. Ahmed, eager to break into a classier market, agreed, and at first looked like the handsome prince coming to her rescue. She, at all people, ought to have known that handsome princes never turn out to be what you expect. His palace was a grimy-looking office block in Wembley, where he wanted her to relocate for reasons of economy. The relationship was soon on the rocks.

This was a thoroughly British saga of class antagonism. She despised him as a cross-purplist. "You're talking about a man who thinks the biggest thing ever is to design diamond-encrusted jeans and he thinks that's classy?" he dismissed her as a middle-class dabbler. The partnership is now over. She has her freedom, he has her name, at least for the moment. Ahmed's Elizabeth Emanuel range is now aimed at women in their late thirties — the kind who go for jazz and clips with a bottle of chardonnay on a Friday night. Is it me, or does that sound like revenge?

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TEL: 0171 293 2222

16/ EDUCATION

APPOINTMENTS, POSTGRADUATE COURSES

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

The School of English at Leeds is one of the largest and most successful English departments in the country, with an active community of over 100 postgraduate students. Its research was rated 5A in both 1992 and 1996, and its teaching as 'excellent'.

We offer MA schemes (both full-time and part-time) in: English Literature, English Language & World Englishes, Medieval English Literature, American Literature & Culture (also available as a joint honours degree with Law, Medicine, Education, and other subjects).

We can offer supervision for PhD, MPhil, and MA by Research across the whole spectrum of English literature and language studies, and are one of the highest in the country.

In addition to a range of University awards, the School itself offers up to two full fee and maintenance scholarships for home PhD students, equivalent to an AHRB award, and several full-fee bursaries for home MA students. Further awards are available for international students, including a number of fully funded scholarships of £3,000 for both MA and PhD students.

For further information write to: the Postgraduate Secretary, The School of English, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT or visit our web site <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/english/> Text only answerphone: 0113 233 4353.

Towards Equal Opportunities



The University of Nottingham

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)

One year courses are available in the following subjects for secondary school teaching:

- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages: French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese
- Geography, History or Science through the medium of French and German
- European Programme: Maitree/PGCE, Austrian
- ISQA/PGCE
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

The PGCE at Nottingham is a high quality course 'excellent' by a number of agencies including the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). This is a priority course for the School of Education's strong and successful links with local schools. There has always been a high demand for graduates with our PGCE and a strong record of employment success for those completing the course.

For further details, please contact: Jill Cleaver, School of Education, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 951 4422. Fax: 0115 979 1506. Email: Jill.Cleaver@nottingham.ac.uk



GRADUATE STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

By Research: PhD/MPhil/MA
Thought: MA in Social & Public Policy
Courses: MA in Disability Studies
MA in Social Research
Diploma in Disability Studies

We invite applications for the above degrees and the following scholarships:

The ESRC research studentship competition.
One ESRC quota award for the MA Social Research.
University of Leeds Scholarships for Research Students.

One University funded research studentship in the Centre for Research on Family, Kinship & Childhood.

The Department has MODA ESRC Research Training Recognition. All the full-time taught MA programmes have ESRC Specialist Recognition, and the MA in Social Research has ESRC Research Training Recognition. All schemes are normally available on a full and part-time basis except the Diploma in Disability Studies which is only available part-time.

Research supervision available in: disability; family, kinship & childhood; ethnicity, 'race' & policy; gender; health; methodology; sexuality; social movements; sociological theory; comparative social policy; social exclusion & social policy; social change & social welfare; discourses of welfare.

For a comprehensive information pack tell: Marie Ross (0113 233 4418) or write to Marie Ross, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT.

Email: m.ross@leeds.ac.uk World Wide Web: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sociology/pg.htm> Text only answerphone: 0113 233 4353.

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Places for September 1999 will end on our 1 year full-time secondary teacher training course. Subjects offered:

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- ENGLISH
- TECHNOLOGY

Limited financial support is available in cases of hardship for trainee teachers of shortage subjects (4).
This scheme is for postgraduate entry only and leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) validated by the Open University. It is an educational partnership of Birmingham inner city schools working together to raise the quality of teaching and learning for all pupils.

For further information please contact: Mrs. June A. Tidmarsh, Titan Partnership, St. George's Post 16 Centre, Great Hampton Row, Birmingham B19 3JG. Telephone: 0121 212 4667. E-mail: june.tidmarsh@aol.com

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Applications are invited for places on an 18 month Part-Time Postgraduate Certificate in Education course at St. Mary's. The training will prepare you to teach across the full primary age range. Flexible patterns of study to accommodate a variety of student needs. Strong interfaith support.
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Prospective Admission Officer, St. Mary's,
St. Mary's Hill, Scarborough
Tel: 01893 8091415

TE: 011 293 4627
FAX: 0171 293 2505

28TH JANUARY 1999

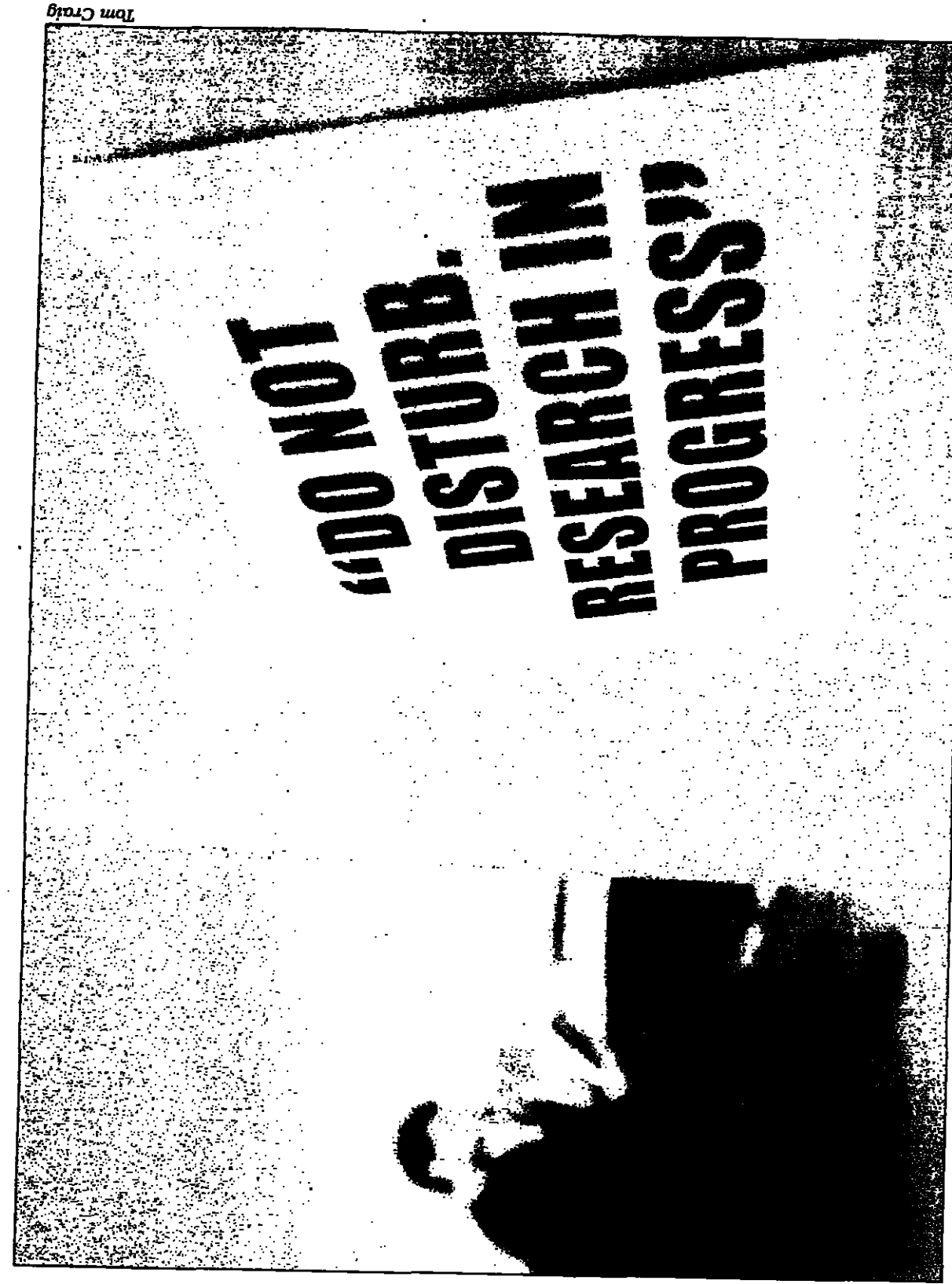
EDUCATION

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4 If teachers keep leaving, can you really turn a struggling school around?

7 Passed/Failed: Bruce Kent talks about life at the school of hard whacks

10 Crisis? What crisis? Why schools should not ignore trauma



I keep on knocking but I can't come in

Is research getting in the way of university teaching? Page 2

TEL: 0171 293 2222

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 28 January 1995

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 28 January 1999



John Dryden, head teacher at Alderman Derbyshire, the school he is determined to get back on track.

Is reincarnation the way to

A dozen, a big 15-year-old with two large gold rings in one ear, walks right up to head teacher John Dyden, who is standing in the front hall of one of the worst schools in Britain. He towers over the teacher and slaps his shoulder. "She come and look at my maths work, five pages, it's really good." The head smiles delightfully and promises he will.

because their parents are depending on state benefits.

There are schools suffering even greater levels of disaffection than we have, though, but this one appears to be on a spiral of decline. Its poor reputation makes it extremely difficult to recruit and retain good teachers. Pupils have often met very poor teachers by people who don't stay long. So they achieve little, bunk off and misbehave, reinforcing its reputation. We first impressions of Alderman Denby are favourable. The buildings are by no means brilliant, but they do at so many post-war comprehensive schools, but spring flowers – compared by pupils – are starting to push out of the tubs by the front entrance. They learn that way, don't they?

Can a school like Alderman Deityshire be turned round. Last summer, only 5 per cent of pupils taking GCSEs got five or more grades A to C, putting Alderman Deityshire among the

leading off from it: "There are four classrooms just above us, and if the students were out of control you'd certainly hear it," he says.

But he declines my request to sit in on a lesson. "My first priority is to the pupils, and they have enough to contend with."

Alderman Derbyshire is in Bulwell on the northern edge of Nottingham. Council estates sprawl around it. The council estate mines have closed, and nearly cut mines have closed, and businesses which depended on

the surrounding community. Just under three years ago, the school received a damning report after an OJed inspection, and was formally placed in require "special measures". That meant close monitoring, and the prospect of closure unless it was turned around.

The inspectors found teachers were having to spend far too much time trying to control a large number of disruptive pupils – which meant that those who wanted to learn could not. Since then, the Government has

live action. Just soldiering on was not an option.

He has not ruled out applying for the post of head teacher at the new school, a £70,000 a year job. But the expectation is that fresh start school will break with the past, have new leadership, and mostly new faces among the teaching staff. "I'm big enough to realise that there may be someone better than me for the job," he says.

Over the next two terms, Mr Dryden will struggle to retain what staff

Its poor reputation makes it difficult to attract and retain good teachers – so pupils achieve little, reinforcing its reputation further

The school is large enough for twice as many pupils as the 470 now attending, for the pull has been falling along with its reputation and the fortunes of

**the surrounding community. Just soldiering on was
just under three years ago, the not an action"**

The inspectors found teachers were having to spend far too much time trying to control a large number of disruptive pupils - which meant that the prospect of closure unless it was turned around.

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It has seen some improvements in literacy levels and exam results since the "crisis" period, but not enough to get the Government to allow it to open up to other schools. The Government has legislated for a "fresh start," which allows councils to close and then re-open failing schools under new leadership. The Secretary of State for Education has to approve of the plan, and Margaret Thatcher was only the third school in England to be selected for this last resort treatment under the Government's scheme. Dozens more will follow.

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"We haven't changed quickly enough," said Mr. Dryden. "It was either a fresh start or closure, and if we closed, the children would have to catch buses to several schools further away." That, he believed, would lead to even higher levels of truancy.

"I'm glad Nottingham City Council and the Government have taken deci-

the school.

The ones that continue don't understand the job. Wendy Powell, the school's young religious education teacher, says, "This is a challenging place to work, and there can be times when you are physically threatened. But if you couldn't cope, I wouldn't still be here, and I'd like to continue."

Mr. Dryden was himself handicapped

Quote Ref: B/080/IND Closing Date: 5 March 1

Further particulars and details of the application procedure may be requested from the Director of Personnel, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX on 0151 794 2210 (24 hr answering machine) or via email: jobs@liv.ac.uk

Web site at <http://www.liv.ac.uk>

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Department of Materials

Research Associate (Post Doctoral)
Natural Fibre Composites

The above position is available to start as soon as possible, working with a team developing the use of new natural fibre materials. It is expected that alongside a degree in either materials science or mechanical engineering, the candidate will have a PhD in a related area of polymeric composite materials and research.

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experience in testing of thermoplastic composites, in particular materials, polymer matrix composites, and polymer matrix composites. The candidate must have the ability to communicate at all levels and will be required to travel abroad.

Applications consisting of a CV, including a list of publications and the names and addresses and e-mails of two referees, should be sent to Dr C Ball, Department of Materials, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BP. The closing date for applications is 19 February 1998.

The College is striving towards Equal Opportunities

United Arab Emirates University
University General Requirements Unit
Mathematics & Computer Applications Program

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
Operating for August 1999

Pollution: The University General Requirements Unit offers a second preparatory program for all students entering the U.A.E. Universities of which are listed below. This program is an integral part. Its curriculum is highly technologically based giving all its courses in state-of-the-art computer labs. The courses include material ranging from basic computer skills to advanced computer skills to basic mathematical analysis, statistics and computer programming. The program is designed to provide students with the necessary background and qualified teachers to be part of a graduate and innovative academic environment with ample opportunities for professional development.

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- High proficiency in English, especially for use as a medium of instruction.

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Send resume and cover letter with telephone/fax numbers and/or email address, references, and a list of publications of past/present papers showing photo and issue dates, if available, to:

Applications: All applications and inquiries should be sent to the following address but are accepted on an ongoing basis. References is given to teachers with experience in both disciplinary areas. Both genders may apply.

Director
University General Requirements Unit
RD, Box 17172, Al Ain
United Arab Emirates
Fax: (077 - 3) 658415
E-mail: mathematics@uaeu.ac.ae (Program Coordinator)



THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

Department of Mathematical Sciences


Chair of Pure Mathematics

Applications are invited for a Chair of Pure Mathematics (tenable from 1 October 1990). Pure Mathematics is a constituent division of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, the others being Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research, and Theoretical Physics. In the last RAE Pure Mathematics achieved a grade 5 rating. As part of a major commitment to improve the division's research performance the University wishes to make an appointment to the Chair of Pure Mathematics (which has become vacant with the transfer of CTC Wall F.R.S. to a research only position) and seeks candidates, from any area of Pure Mathematics, who will provide strong research leadership to the division. The University is making available two additional lecturer posts to be appointed following the selection of the successful candidate to the Chair. Salary negotiable.

Informal enquiries may be made to the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Tony Harris on 0151 794 3653, email: ar35@liver.ac.uk or to the Head of the Department, Professor Bill Bruce on 0151 794 4082, email: wb@liver.ac.uk

Quote Ref: B/980/2ND

Closing Date: 5 March 1999

[illegible]

Leicester
University

CVN 1683111 UK, CANADA/US
Department of Physics

***Positdoctoral Positions in
Condensed Matter Theory***

The Theory of Condensed Matter group (<http://www.lmty.cam.ac.uk>) expects to appoint Positdoctoral Research Associates in a variety of fields starting around October 1998 or earlier.

This opportunity will normally be for two years, but this may vary, as appropriate, in the context or feasibility of funding. The salary is in the range £15,750 to £23,651 per annum and is negotiable.

Applicants should write to The Secretary, TCM Group, Cambridge University, Department of Physics, Cavendish Laboratory, 1222, 7th Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9PE, UK. Tel: 01223 337755, fax: 01223 337756, email: lmty@cam.ac.uk, or by post to the address above. Please send a curriculum vitae, current preprints and email addresses. They should also mention a list of recommendations to be sent.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy and has arrangements for part-time work.

Education Action Zone Advisory Service

EAZAS Clinic

Strand Palace Hotel, The Strand, London WC1
Monday, 15 February 1999

The EAZZ Advisory Service is the lead advisory body working on behalf of the Department for Education & Employment to offer support to individuals and organisations seeking to establish an Education Action Zone.

The EAZAS Clinic is open to all potential Education Action Zone bidders for the 1999 Round, who have:

- Registered with the EAZAS Team*
- Identified their EAZZ partners
- Identified their lead partner in the bid
- Are actively seeking sponsorship/already have sponsorship in place
- Are currently preparing an outline proposal

The EAZAS clinic will comprise a series of seminars and workshops to assist delegates with the preparation and

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Website: <http://www.eazs.org.uk>**

Education Action Zone Advisory Service

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Q Research Methods

Q MA Social Work (top up)
Q MA/PhD Social Work

in the Department of
Physics and Astronomy

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Condensed Matter

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MIDDLESBROUGH UNIVERSITY

Masters degrees may also be combined with joint majors or minor/minors, or for example with some programmes from Middlesex University Business School. MPhil/PhD degrees are also available.

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MA/MSc Sustainable Rural Development
MSc/Edipol Architecture and Community Forest Management
Joint with Capital Manor College (Edipol)
MA/Edipol Social Work (Edipol)

MSc Working with the Seriously Ill, the Dying and the Bereaved
Joint Programme with the Tavistock Clinic
MSc Community Care - Social Work Option
Joint Programme with the Tavistock Clinic
MSc/Edipol Practices and Professional Care or Residential Care (Joint Programme with the Tavistock Clinic and Pagar Harrow Foundation)
MA/Edipol Youth Justice Probation and Applied Criminology

MARKETING/SALES OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR WORLDWIDE

Marketing Assistant

Salary: £14,500 pa

OWP is the commercial arm of The Open University with particular responsibility for marketing the OU's learning materials and academic services internationally. Due to rapid expansion, the Marketing team is seeking to recruit a Marketing Assistant. Reporting to the Marketing Manager, this new role will provide support to a busy marketing department engaged in the direct promotion of the OU's world-class course materials (including print, video and multi-media software) to professional educators and trainers beyond the University's own student body. You will demonstrate experience at:

- Routine production - including copy writing, proof reading, print layout, selecting mailing lists and acquiring distribution, to deadlines.
- Assisting with development of new web sites.
- Constructing simple web pages using Microsoft Word and Hyperlink links.
- Writing and placing news releases to deadlines.
- In addition, you will be well organised, pay excellent attention to detail, have good communication skills and be educated to 'A' level standard or equivalent.

Job descriptions, further particulars and application forms are available from Christine McCrory, Admin & Personnel Manager, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, Third Floor, Walton Hall, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA. Telephone: Milton Keynes (01908) 858139. e-mail: C.McCrory@open.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 15 February 1999. Formal interviews will be held on 22 February 1999.

Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 854901 (Minicom answerphone).

Equal Opportunity is University Policy. <http://www2.open.ac.uk/personal/amp/jr.htm>

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(www.qub.ac.uk/dan/comm)

Rural Development

(www.qub.ac.uk/rurdev)

Food Science

(www.qub.ac.uk/food)

Contact:

Dr. K. King, Assistant Head of School,

School of Agriculture and Food Science,

Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX,

Northern Ireland (Tel: 01232 255200)

University of Belfast

The Queen's University of Belfast

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University of Belfast

Nicholas Schoon

THE INDEPENDENT Thursday 28 January 1999

For a troubled school, a fresh start is the only alternative to closure, but there are problems. By

go?

in from his job as a school inspector three years ago, after the heat and two deputies went on long-term sick leave. As acting head, he decided to apply to be the school's permanent leader, "because I saw there were some very dedicated teachers here."

After the "fresh start" announcement was made, three pupils wrote to the Nottingham Evening Post to complain about its negative coverage of Alderman Derbyshire. One of them, 15-year-old Danny Law, told me: "People put the teachers down, but I don't think they should be laid off. When you have people running about during lessons it's very difficult to teach. There are kids who mess around and ruin things. They get excluded, then come back and disrupt lessons again."

Come September, money will be spent on refurbishing the school and purchasing new equipment. There will be major changes in the curriculum, with the new school seeking Specialist status. With the lure of £70,000 a year, Nottingham City Council should be able to recruit a highly-qualified head who welcomes a challenge. But it remains to be seen if a resurgent school can attract and keep dedicated, effective teachers to overcome Alderman Derbyshire's council stance and turn it around. A council spokesman said he doubted they would be paid above the usual rates.

Woodhead the bookseller

Have you ever heard of anyone who has actually been happy to receive a poor book review? Well Brian Cox is such a man. The most recent issue he has edited, *Literary Review*, is going into a second print, partly thanks to the glowing review from Chris Woodhead, our much-loved Chief Inspector of Schools - the only negative review it attracted.

"I was delighted with this poor review," Professor Cox told me. "It's only effect was to make teachers rush to buy it."

In a strange way, this review history, Brian Cox, who until his retirement in 1993, was the Professor of English Literature at the University of Manchester, will long be remembered as the co-editor of the series of *Black Papers on Education*, first published almost exactly 30 years ago, in March 1969.

That day was described in the House of Commons by Edward Short, then Secretary of State for Education, as "one of the blackest days for education in the past hundred years". The book was part of a reaction to progressive education and the kind of zany teaching methods then adopted by chaps like Woodhead.

But for that Short attack, it might well have gone unmentioned. Instead, it became a best seller. What is stranger still, many of the criticisms contained in the *Black Papers* described by many on the left as "reactionary" even "fascist" have now been embraced by New Labour. Plus ça change, plus c'est à même chose.

Oh what a lovely chancellor

This morning, Lord Attenborough and a retinue of colourfully gowned nobles will solemnly climb the steps of the Gardner Centre at Sussex University to the *Prudhoe de Courvoisier* by Laity, played by the Trinity College Music Brass Ensemble.

They might have been better advised to strike up "Oh, What a Lovely War", like song of the film Richard Attenborough directed in 1967. You will recall that it was set in Brighton and

And finally...

Staff at the University of Leeds are leaving to pay £2.50 for parking their cars. That, says Richard Howells of the Institute of Communication Studies, is a rise of 250 per cent since he started work at the university four years ago. Writing in *Reporter*, the campus newspaper, Dr. Howells poses the following reasonable question: "May I request that either my salary is increased in line with the cost of parking, or that the cost of parking is reduced in line with my salary?"

Top mark for UCAS

A few champagne corks will pop at Cheltenham next month in celebration of this week's Charter Mark award to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. This distinction has been earned as a result of client satisfaction - reports from just some of the 2.5 million students who, year in, year out, apply through UCAS for places.

Now that's a pretty good record for the 300 people employed by this organisation. Top charter marks to them all, and to Tony Higgins, its effervescent chief executive. The clearing period is likely to be busier than ever following

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And finally...

6/EDUCATION

A-Z OF HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

Chichester Institute



Age 160. Historic Banquet

Chichester Institute was as Blagov Oler College, Chichester, founded in 1880 to train schoolmasters. That merged in 1977 with Bognor Regis Emergency Training College, set up in 1941 to train soldiers for service in the Home Guard. Two sites, HQ, sports studies, performing arts and humanities is in Chichester, teacher training in Bognor. Ambience: Quiet coastal Downs and lovely countryside. Heaven for water sports fanatics. Bognor campus has three listed buildings put up in 1922 to attract the Prince Regent, future George IV, plus some Shaker boxes. Chichester has an Oxford college-style campus with Victorian buildings. Small college with 4,800 full-time and 1,200 part-time students. One-third are over 21, on entry. One-quarter are training to teach. Male-female ratio is 46:54. Strong links with further education colleges in West Sussex. Easy to get into? You need BGC at A-level in performing arts; CC for teacher education. Two A-level passes in other areas. Students without courses from local further education colleges. Chichester alumni: Mark Latham, director of continuing professional development at Hornton College, Chichester.

Transport: Links to easy access to get from Chichester to Bognor on the new Institute bus. But anything further afield is a problem. Direct train from London Victoria to Chichester and Bognor takes two hours and stops at every lamp post after.

Lucy Hodder

Spurred on

Top flight take

YOUR VIEWS

Reaction to our articles on funding levels for 'new' and 'old' universities, the teaching of moral, social and citizenship values, and the growth in the market for private tutors even for the very young

1. AX writing to correct certain misconceptions in the article by Professor Burton ("Play fantasy league academic now", EDUCATION, 21 January). The funding component in the grants made by the Funding Councils to universities are still based on the principle originally formulated by the University Grants Committee in 1985: that the unit of resource for teaching any particular subject should be independent of the university in which it is taught. This principle is further modified by the existence of "special factors", of which by far the largest is the one which recognises that everything done in London is unavoidably more expensive than if it were being done elsewhere. But these special factors are publicly stated, and would be publicly justified by the Funding Councils if they were seriously criticised by anyone. Almost everyone who is in a position to judge believes that the new universities are as good at teaching as the older ones, and that there is a real national need for the subjects they teach. Current league tables based on the figures provided by the teaching quality assessment process, ought not to be taken seriously. Few people have confidence in the detailed ratings produced by that process. In the present form, apart from those who are paid to do so, I myself doubt whether any teaching assessment process is capable of saying more than that a course is "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory", and in the latter case saying why. Funding research has to be based on quite different principles. The national need for research varies considerably from one subject to another, and the difference in research be-

As we have a government concerned with the value for money, most of the funding for research will go to the top flight

between one department and another is incomparably greater than the difference in teaching. So the principle here must be to give most of the research money to those departments which are most likely to produce internationally competitive research - and this judgement is largely based on their track record. Moreover, research in laboratory-based subjects is much more expensive than in other subjects. So the main debate is about the distribution of the grant to support elite, scientific research. There are some very distinguished scientists, departments in universities outside the top flight, but not very many. This, so long as we have a Government concerned to obtain value for money, most of the research money will go to the top flight universities. This has nothing to do with their having more clout; it is because they provide

boldly quality research. (Sir) PETER SWINERTON-DYER, (Chairman of the Universities Funding Council, 1989-91) Hoxfordshire

Citizenship is the way ahead YOUR ATTITUDE on moral, social and political education - what should we teach children? by Judith Judd, EDUCATION, 21 January makes the very valuable point that the implementation of citizenship in the curriculum will ultimately hinge on the attitudes of pupils towards the rest of their timetable lessons. In fact, both the literacy and numeracy levels of pupils improve as their self-awareness increases. At CSV Education for Citizenship, we ran a project in a south London school that had been "named and shamed" in November 1987 as one of London's worst schools. Sixty per cent of the pupils were in care, truancy rates were very high, and discipline was a serious problem for the school. Friendly Britain from CSV spent 15 weeks on citizenship education with a group of pupils considered unwelcome by most of the school's teachers. At the end of that period of time the group had bonded into small productive working groups with respect for each others' ideas, their attendance and attentiveness in lessons had dramatically improved, and they had become all-round role models for the rest of the school. Citizenship education covers issues such as bullying, sexual health, and peer education. More and more teachers are getting the message: moral, social and political education can lighten the load for teachers, improve standards nationwide, and make it possible for more young people to fulfil their potential. JOHN FORTER, Director, CSV Education for Citizenship London

SCHOOLS ARE NOT just about the three Rs and never have been. Citizenship lessons should effectively formalise our wider educational tradition that has always been about encouraging the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children and young people. We should all, educationalists and the general public alike, welcome the recommendations of the Government's advisory group on citizenship - and applaud the fact that even the youngest children will be encouraged to grasp issues and ideas in ways that are appropriate to both their age and their competence. STACY BRACE, Head of Development Education Actonville London

JUDITH JUDD's article should cause us all to reflect on the fact that 50 years of the education system, and ask where we are going to get it right? Children need to be taught and instructed in values that people have previously

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For further information please contact Kathleen Callender (Tel: 0191 515 2882) in the Graduate Research School.
Unit 4/FG Technology Park, Chester Road, Sunderland SR2 7PS.
Fax: 0191 515 2297. Email: k.callender@sunderland.ac.uk
TEL: 0171 293 2222

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Centre for Rural Development and Training
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Natural Resources
Social Development, Teaching and Development
£14,148 - £29,066 pa
To teach on the Centre's courses and programmes in the UK and overseas and to provide specialist teaching support in some or all of the areas of RPA, participatory education and training methods in rural development, gender issues, training needs analysis and curriculum and training programme planning. You will have a degree in Natural Resources or Social Science, with overseas experience in Rural Resources and/or Social Development. Practical fieldwork experience and language skills in Spanish, Portuguese or French are also essential. This is a temporary two year appointment based at our Welsh Campus.
For detailed further particulars and an application form (returnable by 12 February 1999) and quoting the reference number, contact the Personnel Services Department, University of Wolverhampton, Wulfrun Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB. Tel: 01902 321049 (enquiries). For hearing impaired candidates our 24 hr Minicom number is 01902 321249. Email address: per@wlv.ac.uk
The University provides higher education services to all sections of the community and is committed to equality of opportunity.

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Open University Business School
Course Manager At the Open University Business School
(Temporary 3 year post)
The Open University Business School is one of Europe's largest providers of management education, offering professional qualifications, diploma and MBA qualifications. More than 15,000 students on thirty six courses in the UK, the rest of Europe and in many other countries. New developments include further international programmes, undergraduate business studies, specialist masters degrees and new courses in economics. The Business School has received an 'Excellent' rating by the Higher Education Funding Council for its teaching and support systems and our MBA has been awarded by AMBA (Association of MBAs). The School has invested in people, state-of-the-art facilities and the Open's award to Services to Support. The School has a strong history of corporate activities. Course managers play a key role in the development, production and presentation of courses with duties including planning, scheduling, budget management, course evaluation and the scheduling of meetings. You should preferably be a graduate, or hold an equivalent qualification, a qualification in management or a related field would be an advantage. You should be an effective communicator, able to work as a member of a team and on your own initiative. You should be able to establish good working relationships in an environment that is frequently pressured and challenging but also rewarding. You should have at least two years' relevant work experience.
The applicant will be for three years, on the Grade 2 scale for Academic Related staff £19,275 - £23,451 pa depending on qualifications and experience.
To obtain an application package and access details for detailed applicants please contact The School Office, Open University Business School, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA or telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 633965, Fax (01908) 633892, e-mail: OUBS.Recruitment@open.ac.uk
Visit our website at <http://mba.open.ac.uk>
Closing date for applications: 18 February 1999.
Interviews will be held on 10 March 1999.
Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).
Equal Opportunity is University Policy.
<http://www2.open.ac.uk/personnel/mba/mbm>

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The Open University is looking for people capable of becoming highly competent educational administrators who will be able to work on a variety of different roles in the University's Generalist Administrative Service, based mainly at its headquarters in Milton Keynes.
The contract:
• The Open University serves over 200,000 students through a system of supported open learning that combines high quality study materials with personal student support. It also operates a substantial award validation service.
• External assessment of the University's quality of teaching has achieved the highest rating for over half of the subjects assessed, placing it amongst the top universities in the UK.
• The Generalist Administrative Service is a group of over 200 professional administrators who work across the University in support of its academic, strategic and operational goals. They play a key role in the development of innovative systems and processes in response to a fast-changing and increasingly competitive higher education environment.
The roles:
As an educational administrator you can expect opportunities to gain experience in many different administrative roles, such as:
• providing services to students and clients;
• policy formulation and implementation;
• managing staff, budgets and operational activities;
• project and team work;
• working bonds and committees.
The person:
You will be of genuine calibre, capable of showing initiative, imagination and judgement, sensitive to academic values, open to new ideas and ways of working. You will be expected to demonstrate ability to:
• manage budgetary resources, operations and processes;
• express yourself clearly and persuasively in person and in writing;
• analyse, interpret and present verbal and numerical information;
• create and maintain effective working relationships.
You will be competent in the use of information technology and committed both to the pursuit of high quality student support and to your continuing personal development.
We offer excellent working conditions with scope for personal and career development, including access to Open University courses and a range of other learning opportunities. Appointment will be made on a contract, related scales of grade 1 £15,735 - £17,570 pa or grade 2 £17,475 - £23,451 pa depending on qualifications and experience.
Posts are usually based at the University's headquarters in Milton Keynes although occasional opportunities exist at our Regional Centres. We expect to have some part-time vacancies, others may be full-time.
For further particulars and an application form and access details for detailed applicants, please contact Sally Wood, e-mail: s.wood@open.ac.uk, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 634046 or send a post card to the Development Manager's Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.
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11/APPOINTMENTS UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH

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• You should hold a PhD degree (or equivalent) in a relevant Bioscience subject and should provide evidence of strong academic and research achievements in teaching and research. You will be expected to demonstrate an interest in the general area of Biology, especially related to human and health sciences.
• Appointment will normally be made on the lecturer grade 1 salary scale, £15,455 - £21,811 pa, according to academic and research experience. Appointment on lecturer grade 8, £22,728 - £29,066 pa, will be considered where you can offer exceptional levels of skills and experience relevant to the post.
• If you wish to discuss the post informally please ring Professor Mike Stewart on Milton Keynes (01908) 633449, or to Susan Dwyer on Milton Keynes (01908) 633326. Further particulars and an application form may be obtained from the Recruitment Co-ordinator, Science Faculty, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 633184 (24 hours), or e-mail: science-recruitment@open.ac.uk. Please indicate where you saw the advertisement.
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• The Open University serves over 200,000 students through a system of supported open learning that combines high quality study materials with personal student support. It also operates a substantial award validation service.
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Posts are usually based at the University's headquarters in Milton Keynes although occasional opportunities exist at our Regional Centres. We expect to have some part-time vacancies, others may be full-time.
For further particulars and an application form and access details for detailed applicants, please contact Sally Wood, e-mail: s.wood@open.ac.uk, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 634046 or send a post card to the Development Manager's Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.
Closing date for applications: 12 February 1999.

8/EDUCATION

Please sir, why don't we get on?

The relationship between teacher and pupil is a complicated one, and can sometimes be hard to handle – but understanding how it all works can make a big difference. By Elizabeth Hartley-Brewer

More Primary School heads like mine. There is nothing particularly or rural about this large Victorian school, that can't help but impose its authoritarian presence over the small, detached houses that sit a mere stone's throw from the rather off-grin, grey playground in Stratford, East London.

Inside the school, however, it couldn't be more different. Empty of children for the day, the staff are taking time out to look, not for the first time, at various issues surrounding children's behaviour. The particular focus is "Conflict and Change", led by a Newham-based training organisation of the same name.

The first session focuses on anger management, not the children's but the teachers' own. What makes them angry? How do they usually react with children and adults? Participants analyse a role play of a typical classroom altercation to inspect their hidden fears and needs when they get into arguments with pupils. They then identify their natural style of handling conflict, and classify it, as either "Attack, Avoid or Assert".

Participants look at how and why children disrupt lessons, then share experiences of effective strategies for managing both their own behaviour and that of troublesome children. The headteacher, Terry Moore, chose the Conflict and Change team specifically to help staff to develop greater self-awareness while extending their repertoire of strategies to manage conflict in the classroom. Unusual things are also happening 120 miles away in a Birmingham suburb. Ninestiles School, a secondary school of 1,200 pupils, has recently won plaudits from school inspectors and Government ministers for its growing academic success story and falling exclusions in a less than prosperous catchment area.

Ninestiles operates what, at first sight, seems like a traditional behaviour policy that puts the students' actions centre stage. Class teachers have available a set, called "consequences", appropriate to their, second, third and so on, reports that they can apply throughout a lesson, quickly and uncontroversially, to help keep the class focused on learning.

All students know about the scale, which is applied consistently throughout the school. Known as Discipline for Learning, it is the same programme that was applied with such disastrous results at the now infamous Ridgeway School in Yorkshire before it was pulled out. What matters, then, is not the existence of a behaviour policy as such, but the understanding, ethos and context within which any policy is implemented.

Many features set Ninestiles apart, but there are two of immediate relevance. First, the school has a computerised recording system for recording consequences that enables the senior pastoral staff led by Gerry Llewellyn, to see past the over time, not only in the behaviour of particular students, but also in the tendency of individual teachers to impose "consequences" and on whom – all information being available at the push of a button.

Second, and more important, is the implementation system which mirrors the ethos of trust and openness by delaying the imposition of higher level

"consequences" to allow the student's side of the story to be heard. It is the pastoral head, not the subject teacher, who takes this final decision. If any student believes she is being "picked on" unfairly, or if a teacher wants to review his own classroom practice, the computer will conveniently provide valuable evidence.

What links these two schools is an open awareness that conflict between teacher and pupil is often subtle and complicated. It cannot be explained away by simple notions of impossible children or incompetent teachers, that are the ready excuses of many who exclaim on the subject in the public press.

These schools acknowledge a variety of contributory factors. There are at least four other causes of classroom conflict. First, there are straightforward personality clashes, where the two parties seem to rub each other up the wrong way and sparks fly. It happens between adults, so of course it is possible between teacher and pupil.

Children are particularly attuned to this. There can't be a parent in the country that hasn't heard the accusation: "He's got it in for me. I'm always being picked on." Or, "With Mrs X, it's always my fault." And their child just could be right.

While it can be hard to verify, unless you attend Ninestiles School, most serious head teachers

know it can happen. George Verran, a past president of the National Association of Head Teachers, which is currently producing a document titled *A Non-Violent Society: Checkpoints for Schools*, acknowledges that he has sometimes moved a pupil to another class, but only after several attempts to resolve matters.

"One case started as a small dispute over the marking of a test. The pupil felt aggrieved, and the teacher refused to budge. They then both took a personal stand against the other and there were further incidents, despite discussions. Moving the child ended the matter."

Second, there can be a mismatch between the teacher's preferred teaching style and the student's natural learning style, leading to frustration and boredom which so often fuel trouble.

"In my own class, on average, up to 25 per cent of pupils will be particularly well-matched with a teacher's style, while 25 per cent will be mis-matched by a mile," says Bryan Stoen, of Public Management Associates, who has used a particular personality inventory, called the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), with teachers to increase their awareness of their own and their pupils' styles and interactions.

There is a similar scheme for children. This approach, along with the increasingly popular "seven intelligences" – different approaches to learning, developed by Howard Gardner, the

Harvard-based world expert on learning – offers a new way of looking at an old problem, but one that hasn't always been recognised.

Doctor Hill, the head of Ninestiles School, acknowledges that some good teachers will meet all learning styles implicitly. Nonetheless, his school now ensures that this awareness is being planned into all schemes of work, using a *pro forma* grid headed: *Matching Teaching Styles to Learning Styles*.

Teachers are choosing to learn teach with an other to aid professional development. "We have developed a culture in which they observe each other regularly without feeling threatened," says Doctor Hill. "Conflict can be exaggerated or minimised by the ethos of a school, and teaching styles are similarly influenced."

Gene are the days when teachers read out the identical lesson year after year, though George Verran points out that current government initiatives contain a paradox: he fears that the obsession with standards is creating a standardisation that cannot take into account the diversity of learners.

"It is the nature of schooling to gather people together to deliver the same information, however, individuality is the dynamic which makes it so exciting, and more likely to be successful. We have been diverted from the fundamental truth of education – the quality of the relationship between child and adult," he says.

A third factor that can explain classroom clashes is, of course, stress. Most teachers know from experience that family tensions can make children act up in school, though spotting the cause of the trouble without prior knowledge can be tricky. Not many schools assemble the whole staff first thing every morning to share any fresh information about the welfare of the pupils to increase awareness, as does Ninestiles.

But trouble at home affects teachers too. Even the most competent professional can become vulnerable, tiring inappropriately to challenges or seeing injustices where none were intended, especially if they are coping with divorce, bereavement, difficulties with their own children, or even an Ofsted inspection.

Anita Higham, principal of Barbary School, Oxfordshire, has an insight gained from 20 years of headship. She watches for signs of teacher stress, such as a noisy classroom, a sudden change of behaviour or referrals to year heads. She will then approach the teacher and may suggest some time out or professional support.

She also knows that even personally clashes can have deeper roots, that reach into the teacher's childhood. With more children entering school with emotional and behavioural problems, she feels teachers need greater insight about children and more self-awareness than ever, especially when working with adolescents.

Cathy Oliver, a primary school teacher in Stockport, agrees. Fairly new to teaching and finding her current class a handful, she is reluctant to blame it all on them. "Individually, like them, I'm generally a calm person, but four pupils in particular can get me so worked up. Some days are good, some bad, and often I haven't a clue why."

She's keen to develop her self-understanding, style and tactics.



Conflict between teacher and pupil is a complicated one, and can sometimes be hard to handle – but understanding how it all works can make a big difference.

Personality Flashpoints

Newstream

THE MYERS Briggs Type Indicator identifies four different pairs of psychological preferences giving potentially 16 different types in combination. What it helps teachers to do is to identify their strengths and see how to get through to children who have other styles along in the classroom.

PERSONALITY TYPE	CHILD	TEACHER
Extroversion	Spontaneous, friendly, and likes discussion	Likes activity-based learning
Introversia	Likes ideas, small groups, observing	Tends to emphasise task, not process
Judging	Needs predictability, work, then play	Clear lesson plan, dislikes diversions
Perceiving	Last-minute, flexible, fun, enjoy process	Likes generalities, lets students lead
Sensing	Likes facts, certainly clear directions and a steady worker	Keeps an orderly class, and teaches through the use of questions
Intuitive	Likes possibilities, originality, and enjoys learning new things	Focuses on patterns and relationships of a school needs. But where are they going to come from, when it seems to me that no few teachers would ever achieve their own call, then to join the profession? Just this something that might make them?
Thinking	Objective and logical, likes ideas, principles, and questions why	On top of their subject and expects high standards
Feeling	Subjective, considers values, thinks well of people and likes to please	Shapes decisions and uses an individual focus

For further information: *Conflict and Change*, 0181 532 2056; *Public Management Associates*, 01606 664422

■ *Effective Teaching, Effective Learning*, *Minding the Personality Connection* in Your Classroom, by A. L. P. Rutherford. Available from Oxford Psychological Press, promoters of Myers Briggs Type Indicator and the adaptation for children, MBITC, 0185 510093

■ *Teachers of Non-Violent Society: Checkpoints for Schools*, available from Forum on Children and Violence, National Children's Bureau, 0171 683 6800, from March

EDUCATION/5

No daughter of mine is going to be a teacher

If you're a teacher with children of your own, would you encourage them to follow your own career path? By Ian Roe

WE WERE all delighted with Joanna's A-level results. She did extremely well and got into her first-choice university with no problems at all. Throughs then turned inevitably towards her future. What will she decide to do? Certainly everyone knows that she is intelligent, lively and imaginative – a young woman of many talents. And everyone has said to Joanna – and I mean everyone – "Don't become a teacher. You are far too clever. It would be such a waste."

I am the deputy head of an inner-city comprehensive but, sadly, I have found myself agreeing with this. What an indictment of the way in which my profession is perceived. You would have thought that as we are dragged into the new millennium by an increasingly complex technological world, informed and dedicated teachers would be the vital. You would have thought that we'd have put George Bernard Shaw's *enthusiasm of youth to transform schools, but where are they to come from?*

The profession needs good new recruits, the enthusiasm of youth to transform schools, but where are they to come from? This shouldn't be so, should it? I should be seen as a great responsibility, which requires imagination and wit and intelligence, all the things that our best young people have. Except that today, we don't think teaching is a suitable career for them.

The profession always needs good new recruits. It needs the vibrant enthusiasm of youth. I have seen the way in which talented young teachers can transform a department and a school. They are the best young people have. Except that today, we don't think teaching is a suitable career for them.

Would I become a teacher now, if I were starting my life over again? Honestly don't know. I still think that it is the most important of jobs and I still enjoy a bit of what it is. But could I really truthfully encourage someone to join me? What we need are teachers who are comfortable about themselves and their place in society. Instead, we are constantly round-winded and vilified. The game's not worth the candle, Joanna. Do something else.